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141 reported dead in plane crash in China

BEIJING (AP) — A Boeing 737 jetliner crashed Tuesday into a mountain and shattered into pieces, killing all 141 people aboard the flight to a popular tourist city, official media reported. It was the highest death toll in any reported air disaster in Chinese history. The state-run Xinhua News Agency said most of the victims were mainland Chinese. The passengers also included nine people from Taiwan, two Spaniards, one Canadian and one person from the Portuguese-controlled of Macao near Hong Kong. Xinhua said. Xinhua said the names of the victims were not available. The report gave no indication of what caused the crash. It quoted unidentified witnesses as saying they saw smoke erupt from the jet before it slammed into a mountain at about 7:30 a.m. (2350 GMT Monday). The plane crashed near Yangli, about 30 kilometres (31 miles) south of Guilin in a popular tourist area famed for its limestone peaks rising above the pearl river.

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ing decorates ID director, her officers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday conferred the Kawtab Medal of the first star in the Jordanian Intelligence Department (GID) Director General Mustafa Al-Sayid. The king also conferred the medal on the distinguished officers in appreciation of their distinguished efforts in preserving national security and stability.

Police arrest suspects in tourist attack

IRO (AP) — Four more suspects in an attack on German tourists were arrested Tuesday in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, police statement said. The statement said the four were the remaining suspects in the v. 12 attack on a tour bus in the town of Qena, 300 miles (480 km) south of Cairo. Two other suspects were arrested earlier this month in connection with the for getting back.

Officer removed from post over killing Palestinian

CUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The commander of an army unit that shot and killed a 19-year-old Palestinian in the West Bank on Monday has been removed from his post, the Israeli army said Tuesday. An investigation concluded that the officer had acted against orders, an army spokesman said. It did not elaborate on Monday. On Monday, Palestinian soldiers said that Israeli soldiers shot at civilians as they fled from a village while dispersing the crowd. The soldiers were the boy lived.

Uzbek president in

DOSIA (R) — Uzbek President Islam Karimov arrived in Amman Tuesday on a two-day visit aimed at improving relations between the two countries, the Jordan News Agency, IRNA, reported. It said Mr. Karimov was met at the airport by Iraqi President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. Mr. Karimov told Iranian radio that Iran-Tashkent relations were at "an ideal level" and that they would open a new chapter in bilateral ties, according to C radio monitors. Mr. Rafsanjani described Mr. Karimov's visit as a turning point in the two countries' relations. Mr. Karimov accompanied by Uzbek Foreign Minister Ubaidullah Abdurakhov, and a number of other officials.

Wait deputies call cleaning up state security

WAIT (AP) — In a stormy session Tuesday, government ministers in Kuwait's first parliament called for dismantling the state security Police or at least eliminating agents responsible for torture and other ill-treatment. "How can we accept that a salary that is paid for from money tortures our sons?" Deputy Ahmad Al Khateeb said, drawing applause from hundreds of citizens who attended the session. "The kind of people they employ are vicious and merciless. State security is a cancer in the body of the Kuwaiti people," said deputy Mufarej Al-Tajer. Tuesday's parliament session was the strongest manifestation yet of positions of opposition members who swept of 50 seats in October elections.

Turkey adds Yugoslavia, Italy toalkan talks list

IKARA (R) — Turkey has added the rump state of Yugoslavia and Italy to the guest list for a regional ministers' meeting Wednesday to discuss Balkan security, officials said. Ankara last week invited Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, Greece, Hungary, Austria, and the other four member Yugoslav republics to the meeting in Istanbul. Greece has agreed to attend.

Security Council keeps sanctions clamped on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council on Tuesday unanimously rejected Baghdad's claim that it has observed the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire. The council planned to keep the U.N. economic embargo clamped on Iraq.

The decision came in the form of a statement approved by all 15 council members after two days of debate in which Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz insisted that Iraq had complied with U.N. demands and demanded the lifting of the sanctions.

In a highly indignant statement read out by the council's Hungarian President Andre Erdos, the Security Council rejected the "threats" made by Mr. Aziz to U.N. weapons inspectors and the council.

In two speeches on Monday and Tuesday, Mr. Aziz accused Western ambassadors on the council of hypocrisy; described U.N. weapons inspectors as provocateurs; and insisted that Iraq was fully cooperative and innocent of any wrongdoing.

The council, in an unusually harsh statement, said it "regrets the lack of any indication in the statements of the deputy prime minister of Iraq of how the government of Iraq intends to comply with the resolutions of the council."

That set the stage for the extension of the embargo, to come later Tuesday. The council said it "regrets the baseless threats, allegations and attacks launched by the deputy prime minister of Iraq" against the Security Council, the U.N.

Special Commission set up to eliminate Iraq's mass destruction weapons, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission and the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

"The council rejects in toto these threats, allegations and attacks," it said. In a question-and-answer session on Tuesday with Security Council ambassadors, Mr. Aziz demanded the lifting of the sanctions.

"The facts are that Iraq...has implemented the commitments imposed upon it" by the United Nations, said Mr. Aziz. "There is a desire to hide this fact from the Security Council and from world public opinion," he complained.

His headline attitude only seemed to stiffen ambassadors' resolve to keep the sanctions clamped on Iraq.

After Mr. Aziz spoke, Kuwait's Information Minister Saud Nassar Al Sabbah responded, saying the Iraqi envoy's remarks were riddled with falsehoods. He ridiculed Mr. Aziz's attempts to portray Iraq as the victim.

It was the second time in eight months that Mr. Aziz has pleaded Iraq's case before the council. Iraq is seeking progressive relaxation of the embargo as it satisfies cease-fire terms and other U.N. resolutions.

But council members, even before Mr. Aziz's appeal, agreed Monday that Iraq has not complied with the terms of the cease-fire that ended the 1991 Gulf war,

including full disclosure of its arms programmes.

Mr. Aziz accused some of the inspection teams sent by the U.N. Special Commission of being troublemakers acting under instructions from Western countries to stir up incidents.

"We had two types of these teams. The first is the... group that arrives to raise problems, behaves in a provocative manner that would infringe on the sovereignty and dignity of the people and the country. The second type of inspection group accomplishes its task in a professional manner and without any problems."

Mr. Aziz also said his country was willing to work out arrangements for long-term U.N. monitoring of its industries that have potential military applications.

But a letter from Iraq's foreign minister sent Oct. 28 sought to renegotiate the terms of two Security Council resolutions establishing the long-term monitoring.

Mr. Aziz dismissed as "false accusations" the council's findings that very few missing persons or detainees have been released since March 1992, and that hundreds are believed to be still inside Iraq.

"Where does Iraq's interest lie in holding Kuwaitis and refusing to return such persons?" he asked, calling it a propaganda play. "Iraqi authorities hold no one, neither from Kuwait nor from any other nation."

The Kuwaiti information (Continued on page 5)

OIC to pressure U.N. to use force in Bosnia

JEDDAH (AP) — Muslim Nations will push the United Nations to dispatch a military force to embattled Bosnia-Herzegovina and are willing to contribute men and funds for the operation, the head of the Islamic Conference said Tuesday.

Hamid Al-Gabid added that Islamic countries were also ready to rush arms to Muslims locked in a losing battle against ethnic Serbs, if a U.N. arms embargo imposed on all parties in the conflict last May were lifted.

He was speaking ahead of an emergency meeting of the 47-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) due to convene here Dec. 1. The two-day ministerial conference will discuss the plight of the Bosnian Muslims.

It will be the second emergency conference by the Islamic foreign ministers on Bosnia in six months.

"The Islamic countries are ready to put units for the U.N. military force if the Security Council decided to form it. They are also willing to supply arms to Bosnia if the embargo is lifted," Mr. Gabid said.

He added that "the conference will also call for a partial lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia so that the Bosnian people will be able to defend themselves."

Mr. Gabid said OIC foreign ministers will be looking for ways to pressure the U.N. Security Council for the use of military force to end the crisis.

He did not specify the nature of the "pressures."

He added, however, that "the U.N. is an effective machine in the new world order" which should not be bypassed.

Mr. Gabid said he had no knowledge of Muslim countries helping the Bosnian Muslims, supplying them with oil and other material.

"But anything may happen if the economic blockade against Serbia is not tightened," he said.

Mr. Gabid called for more Islamic support to neighbouring Croatia, which is hosting more than a million Bosnian refugees.

More than 14,000 people have been killed in fighting that broke out after the republic's majority Muslims and Croats voted in February for independence from Yugoslavia.

Rain storm comes to a gradual end

AMMAN (J.T.) — The rain storm that affected the country for the last three days is expected to come to a gradual end Wednesday but temperatures will remain below their annual average, according to forecasts by the Department of Meteorology.

Weathermen also say temperatures in Amman will rise to 12 degrees Celsius Wednesday.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Agriculture has urged farmers to start sowing cereals in expectation of a good rain season.

"The coming agricultural season seems to be promising and the farmers are advised to grow cereals in the largest possible area," Minister of Agriculture Fayez Khasawneh told Jordan News Agency, Petra, Wednesday.

The minister said farmers whose lands receive an annual rainfall average of 350 millimetres are advised to sow wheat while those farming lands that receive less rain should plant barley.

Dr. Khasawneh urged farmers to get improved seeds from the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) which will also provide them with fertilisers and guidance.

The Council of Ministers earlier this month approved a JCO request to distribute JD 300,000 annually for the coming five years to farmers developing their lands within the framework of a development project financed by the World Food Programme (WFP). The council had earlier agreed to provide the Agriculture Credit Organisation (ACC) with JD 5 million to be extended to farmers in soft loans.

The GCC alliance was created by the six conservative nations of the oil-rich region in 1981 to confront the threats from stronger forces, at the time mainly the communist threat in Afghanistan and the fundamentalist Islamic revolution of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran.

GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara said Monday

Prince Hassan blames Western media for distorting image of Islam

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday blamed the media for distorting the West's perception of the Middle East, its peoples and Islam.

"War and peace in the Middle East has depended to some degree on public perception of the peoples, religions and cultures of my region, which have been molded — and occasionally distorted — by the informed media," Prince Hassan said in an address at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in London.

"Particularly troubling at present," said Prince Hassan, "is the tendency to portray the Islamic world as undifferentiated monolith of violence and fundamentalism," said Prince Hassan at the sixth award-giving ceremony of the One World Broadcasting Trust.

Emphasising the important role of the media in a world of instant communications, Prince Hassan said "global satellite technology... laid solid foundations for the inter-linked community of peoples, envisaged by (Marshall) McLuhan: 'The global village'."

However, Prince Hassan warned against the danger of disinformation, saying "the Middle East knows the... consequences of the easy stereotypes and the slick generalisation."

Prince Hassan said "mutual understanding based on an



awareness of fundamental human inter-connectedness must be the guiding ethos." Awareness of this interdependence and the responsibility that comes with it, he said, is the first building blocks of a viable global village.

Noting that the Middle East is "topical" only when it is violent, Prince Hassan said that "peace can be as sensational as war, achievements can be as topical as collapses."

The Prince said the bottom line of a news story must be the human being, pointing that "no matter how tempting it is to analyse a region in purely strategic or economic terms, the human dimension must remain

uppermost: for a village, albeit global, is a collection of diverse individuals."

Highlighting the potential of broadcast media to promote this concept, the Prince referred to the success of Life Aid in raising awareness and resources for the victims of famine in East Africa.

The power of the broadcast media, he said, often exceeds that of governments.

Prince Hassan said the media can play a great role in easing human suffering by addressing issues in a balanced comprehensive manner and the articulation of perspectives and workable solutions.

Prince Hassan said the telecommunications revolution has put unprecedented responsibility on policy-makers because the consequences of their decisions are "felt more widely, more immediately than ever before."

Prince Hassan expressed hope that the developing "global mind" would not be "dominated by one perspective to the exclusion of all others — would not be a unipolar mind — but rather one capable of embracing and utilising the vast richness of all human experience, and thereby becoming more than the sum of its parts."

Prince Hassan later presented the One World Broadcasting Trust Awards for this year's best radio and television programmes on developmental and environmental issues.

Palestinians convinced peace talks need 'new driving force'

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Palestinian leadership emerged from a three-day meeting in Tunis this week convinced of the need for a new driving force to inject life into the stalemate Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Palestinian peace negotiators have therefore agreed to pursue a "programme of intense activity" with the purpose of generating regional and international support for the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

"Without a new driving force," said PLO Executive Committee member Saleh al-Najjar, "the peace talks will become a routine process from which only Israel will benefit."

In an interview with the Jordan Times Tuesday, Mr. Najjar said there was a consensus among participants in the Tunis meeting that the talks with Israel were not heading in the direction agreed to upon the launching of the peace talks in Madrid last year.

Mr. Najjar said the principles outlined letters of invitations to the talks as well as the letter of assurances which identified U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242

and 338 as the bases for the negotiations do not seem to be guiding the talks 13 months after they were launched.

Although the next round of talks was set for Dec. 7 in Washington, Mr. Najjar insisted that whether the Palestinians attend the next round of the talks or was not the most pressing issue now. "The issue is how to create a driving force to give the negotiations the necessary push."

The PLO official said that efforts to gather support for the Palestinian-Israeli track will be directed at the co-sponsors of the talks, mainly the new U.S. administration led by President-elect Bill Clinton, Europe, the U.N. and Arab countries.

Mr. Najjar identified the following points as the major reasons why, according to the Palestinians, the talks went wrong. The failure of the U.S. to "live up to its word" and lack of commitment to its letter of assurances, collapse of the Soviet Union, leaving the talks under the control of one biased side (the U.S.), which has historically supported Israel.

The absence of an active U.N. role, "although the basis of the negotiations are U.N. resolutions,"

The "weakening" of the European role in the peace process;

Different Arab interpretations of a "comprehensive solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Najjar said the Palestinian interpretation of a comprehensive solution meant a full implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, "Israeli withdrawal from all the territories it occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem."

Mr. Najjar said solving the refugee problem is also part of the Palestinian problem. He said the issue of security and borders of the countries in the area cannot be defined except in a comprehensive solution.

"This is basic, regardless of any progress made in this or that track in the negotiations," Mr. Najjar said.

Reports from Tunis said the Palestinians were divided on whether to participate in the next round of talks and on the conditions of participation. While some called for complete withdrawal from the talks, others demanded either delaying the next round or full participation.

Observers, however, believe the Palestinians will decide to attend the Dec. 7 round.

France 'retains' right to veto EC-U.S. accord

PARIS (AP) — France cannot immediately veto the U.S. European Community (EC) farm accord, but French officials said Tuesday that Paris retains its option to single-handedly block the deal when a final General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) package comes to the EC for a vote.

But the officials stressed that France will try to soften the farm accord short of unilaterally killing its provisions by axing EC approval of a world trade package involving 108 nations.

Legally, France can veto the 12-nation EC's acceptance of any proposed deal reached on the GATT, the officials said. Such action would cast France in villain in Europe and around the world, destroying the hopes of 108 countries for a pact that could relaunch stagnant economies with an estimated \$200 billion in new trade.

"Of course we don't renounce using the veto," said Caroline Malessena, European Affairs spokeswoman at the Foreign Ministry.

"If there's another possibility, that's better. We hope to pursue discussions on the GATT, and we'll see later."

For the moment, though, France cannot veto the accord

reached Friday between EC and U.S. negotiators on subsidy cuts to European farmers, which Washington has viewed as the main obstacle to a GATT deal.

The accord would allow U.S. trade sanctions on \$200 million of EC farm products, but has sparked nationwide protests from France's politically powerful farmers, who see subsidy cuts as a threat to their livelihoods.

In Calais, about 50 farmers snarled traffic with tractors and dumped unsold apples before the home of a local legislator before setting fires and straw alight before a government building.

Premier Pierre Berégovoy threatened Sunday to veto the deal as a last resort. Officials noted Tuesday that under complex EC rules, no veto is possible until a legal motion goes before the council of ministers, the foreign ministers of the 12 states.

They must decide, on the basis of whether "vital national interests" are at stake, whether voting is by qualified majority or unanimity.

Unanimity would be used if all the countries feel their vital interests are on the line. Qualified majority voting, used in most circumstances, means that one large country, like France, and two smaller ones can block the

motion.

But if a qualified majority seems likely to vote against France, Paris can unilaterally declare vital interests at stake and prevent a vote from being held until a consensus is reached — in essence, vetoing the motion.

The European Commission, the EC's executive body, examines the farms accord Wednesday to judge whether they are compatible with internal subsidy reforms adopted earlier this spring. France insists they are not.

But the provisions are likely only to be voted on only as part of a complete GATT package including services, intellectual property and other trade aspects besides agriculture.

While GATT negotiations continue, Paris can work to soften the accord, or at least have time for the passions unleashed by them to cool, the officials said.

"The moment to really pronounce ourselves is when there's a global, balanced accord," said Mr. Malessena. "It's a bit early to talk about a veto."

The national assembly debates the agricultural accord Wednesday. Farm unions have called for massive nationwide protests.



A LIFE OF DESPAIR: A Somali mother feeds her child at a feeding centre in Kamora, in western Somalia, five kilometres from the Kenyan border.

Qatar boycotts GCC meeting, welcomes call for Arab summit

ABU DHABI (AP) — Qatar for the third time Tuesday boycotted a meeting of the Saudi Arabian-led Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), indicating a major crack in the 12-year-old alliance.

Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jasssem Al Thani did not show up for the meeting with his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to line up the agenda for the annual summit of their leaders.

Instead, Sheikh Al Thani turned his attention to the wider Arab World and issued a statement in Doha with warm welcome for the call from Moroccan King Hassan for an emergency pan-Arab summit conference that would "restore the lost pan-Arab solidarity."

"The state of Qatar supports these good efforts and blesses them out of firm faith in the importance of deepening understanding among the Arab states

and restoring Arab solidarity," said the statement distributed by the official Qatar news agency.

Because of a border dispute with Saudi Arabia, which flared on Sept. 30, Qatar also was absent from recent meetings in Kuwait, first of GCC defence ministers and then interior ministers.

Officials said the five foreign ministers present at the two-day meeting now have a priority of finding means of convincing Qatar to bring its differences for settlement at the council negotiating table.

But the statement put from Doha indicated that Qatar was eager to fan out the dispute on a wider Arab level. The six GCC states also belong to the 21-member Arab League.

The foreign ministers meeting sets the stage for the GCC summit in Abu Dhabi, scheduled to start Dec. 21.

Gulf diplomatic circles still think there is a chance that the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani will attend the summit, noting that the crisis developed in the middle of a two-month holiday in September and October. His son, the crown prince and defence minister, Sheikh Hamad, was in charge of the country.

The GCC alliance was created by the six conservative nations of the oil-rich region in 1981 to confront the threats from stronger forces, at the time mainly the communist threat in Afghanistan and the fundamentalist Islamic revolution of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran.

GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara said Monday

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Syria bars U.S. counterterrorism delegation; wants name cleared

WASHINGTON (AP) — Syria, eager to be cleared of links to terrorism, has barred visits by U.S. counterterrorism delegations for the past six months because the Bush administration would not guarantee Syria would be struck from the State Department's list of nations that support terrorism, the department's spokesman has said.

"They want us to be able to make a promise that we obviously can't make," Richard Boucher said. "Taking them off the list would depend on changes so that they would no longer offer safe haven and support."

Syria has been on the list since it was first compiled in 1979. The State Department is in the midst of preparing its report on terrorism to Congress. It is due in January.

The five other countries on the list are Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Cuba and Libya. They are treated virtually as outcasts by the U.S. government.

Unlike them, Syria has full diplomatic relations with the United States and contributed troops to the war against Iraq in 1991. It also plays a pivotal role in U.S. efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Syria was credited with helping free American hostages held in Lebanon by militant fundamentalists linked to Iran. Syria, unlike most Arab governments, has friendly ties to Tehran.

Syrian and Israeli negotiators have been meeting under U.S. and Russian auspices for more than a year. The talks centre on Syria's demand for return of the Golan Heights, a strategic strip lost in the 1967 Middle East war, and Israel's quest for peace and security.

"The significance of that is hard to exaggerate," Dennis Ross, head of the department's policy planning staff, said Monday of Syria's participation in the

peace talks. "It sends a message to everyone in the area."

Syria had taken a strong stand against negotiations with Israel and was considered a leader of the "rejectionist" camp.

In their talks Syria and Israel are beginning to approach "the problem-solving stage," Mr. Ross said in a response to questions after a speech here.

By contrast, Muwaffiq Al Alai, the chief Syrian negotiator, said last Friday his government might reconsider its participation in the talks if Israel did not yield the Golan Heights. "We are the party whose territory is under occupation, so waiting is not in our interest," he said.

The last U.S. delegation to visit Damascus to discuss terrorism went there in May 1991. It was headed by Morris Busby, then head of the department's Office of Counter Terrorism and now U.S. ambassador to Colombia. Mr. Boucher said the United

States and Syria continued to have "a direct and frank dialogue" on terrorism in Washington and in Damascus. "The Syrians know our concerns about their providing safe haven and support to terrorist groups, which is why they remain on the terrorism list."

Mr. Boucher added: "They have told us they would like to see any further delegation visits result in getting them off the terrorist list, and we told them we would like to see such exchanges produce positive results."

The spokesman declined to say whether Syria, in the U.S. judgement, now had a better record than in the past. But he said Syria would have to change its way to be taken off the list.

He declined to identify any of the groups Syria allegedly assists.

The Washington Times carried a front-page account Monday of Syria's refusal to permit U.S. delegations to visit Damascus.



Italian actress Sophia Loren carries a Somali child on her arms at Aidison hospital (AFP photo)

Sophia Loren cradles starving Somali babies

BULLA HOWA, Somalia (R) — Film idol Sophia Loren held skeletal babies in her arms when she visited famine-hit Somalia as a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. Monday.

"It's a tragedy on a Biblical scale," said Ms. Loren, who went to the Somali town of Bulla Howa, close to the Kenyan border, with officials of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and some 40 journalists.

But Ms. Loren, 58, said she saw "signs of joy" among the hundreds of refugees who had fled squalid camps in Kenya to return to villages they fled months ago.

Mortality has plummeted in the Kenyan camps, which held 422,000 refugees. Relief agencies are giving out food and seeds to encourage Somalis to go home.

"Two weeks ago this boy couldn't walk," a Belgian Medecins Sans Frontieres worker told Ms. Loren, pointing out a stick-thin child at a feeding centre in the Kenyan town of Mandera.

To shouts of approval from a battery of paparazzi, Italy's notorious celebrity photographers, Ms. Loren then spoon fed infants.

On Sunday Ms. Loren visited Baidoa, the southwestern Somali town where dozens of people are still dying of famine months after the world launched a massive relief effort.

"The impact of children like skeletons, of disease, were so brutal. As soon as I closed my eyes last night these images came back and I had a terrible night," Ms. Loren told Reuters.

U.N. officials Panos Moutziris said the world body hoped to raise at least \$300,000 in donations from the four-day publicity trip, which cost a tenth of that.

U.N. blames Turkish Cypriots for lack of progress

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali saddled the Turkish Cypriots with the lion's share of blame for lack of progress in the latest round of negotiations aimed at ending the division of Cyprus.

In a written report to the Security Council, he proposed a series of confidence-building measures to help smooth the way when Cypriot President George Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash meet again in March under his auspices.

"The outcome of the joint meetings that were held in the period Oct. 28 to Nov. 11 has not met expectations," Dr. Ghali said.

Referring to a set of ideas and a map which he presented to both sides in July as the basis for establishing a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, he wrote: "I have found that the positions of the Turkish Cypriot side are fundamentally at variance with the set of ideas under three broad headings: A, the concept of the federation B, displaced persons and C, territorial adjustments."

These are key issues which involve how much territory the

Turkish Cypriots would have to surrender under a final settlement, and arrangements for repatriating or compensating some 160,000 Greek Cypriots and 45,000 Turkish Cypriots uprooted when Turkish troops occupied the north of the island in 1974 after a short-lived coup in Nicosia.

Dr. Ghali noted the Greek Cypriot side "declared that it accepted provisions of the set of ideas. However, such declarations were frequently accompanied by provisos. These questions should be cleared up at the forthcoming joint meetings in a manner that does not deviate from the set of ideas."

Reserving his strongest criticism for the Turkish Cypriot side, he said: "The objective of Mr. Denktash's position is to have the two communities living separately, as practically homogenous ethnic groups. The solution sought by Mr. Denktash is incompatible with the set of ideas, which seeks to take account of practical difficulties, but not in a manner that would negate the right to return and the right to property, as well as with accepted international standards and practices."

Dr. Ghali suggested even closer involvement by the Security Council, whose five permanent members — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China — sought to pressure Mr. Denktash during the last round of talks and at previous sessions earlier in the year.

"In this connection, I believe that the time may have come to give fuller form to the decision of the Security Council, reflected in its Resolution 750 (1992) of April 10 1992, to be seized of this matter 'on an ongoing and (more) direct basis,'" the secretary-general said.

Saying the recent meetings indicated a "deep crisis of confidence between the two sides," he said prospects for progress would be greatly enhanced if confidence-building measures were adopted by each side. These included:

- The reduction of the number of Turkish troops on the island to their level of a decade ago, accompanied by the suspension of a weapons-acquisition programme on the Greek Cypriot side.
- Extension to all areas of a U.N.-controlled buffer zone

where the two sides are in close proximity of a 1989 agreement under which both sides stopped manning certain positions and patrolling certain areas in Nicosia.

- The U.N.-controlled area should be extended to include Varosha, the modern part of the town of Famagusta to which access is controlled by Turkish troops but has remained unoccupied since 1974.
- The promotion of people-to-people contact by reducing travel restrictions across the buffer zone.
- Reducing restrictions on foreign visitors crossing the zone.
- The proposal by both sides of bi-communal projects, to which lending and donor nations and international institutions should give preference.
- Both sides should commit themselves to a Cyprus-wide census, under U.N. auspices.
- Both sides should cooperate to enable the United Nations to conduct feasibility studies concerning the resettlement and rehabilitation of Turkish Cypriots who would be affected by territorial adjustments as part of an overall settlement.

U.N. finds torture, executions commonplace in Iran

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iran is making "excessive" use of the death penalty, and earlier this year hanged one-third of those condemned for political crimes, a U.N. report said.

In the report, a U.N. human rights investigator found that torture is often used illegally to force false confessions from the accused, and legal procedures may be unfair and summary.

Oppression of followers of the Baha'i religion has been stepped up, with arbitrary arrests and detentions continuing, the report said. A Baha'i man was executed this year for no apparent reason, after a 3½-year suspension of executions of Baha'is.

The report was to be introduced into the General Assembly subcommittee that deals with human rights issues Tuesday; the whole General Assembly is expected to adopt it in December.

A copy of the report was obtained by the Associated Press Monday.

The Iranian mission to the United Nations did not return a telephone call Monday seeking comment on the report.

"It is appropriate to maintain international supervision of the human rights situation" in Iran, concluded Reynaldo Galindo Pons, of El Salvador, an investigator appointed by the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

The leader of the main Iranian resistance group, Massoud Rajavi

of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, said in a statement released in New York that "the mullah's dictatorship does not enjoy any legitimacy among the people of Iran, and the contemporary world as a whole."

He demanded that governments impose an international arms and oil embargo "on this anti-human regime and recognise its democratic alternative."

Mr. Galindo relied on visits to Iran, press reports, responses from the Iranian government and interviews with Iranian expatriates to compile his report.

"Reliable information has been gathered on the use of torture and ill-treatment to obtain confessions or to prepare evidence to incriminate people who apparently have no knowledge of the alleged offenses under investigation," Mr. Galindo found.

"It can be stated that there definitely are confirmed cases of persons who recently have been subjected to torture and that political prisoners in particular do not have any guaranteed protection against torture," he said.

Mr. Galindo cited the case of Amir Entezam, the vice-premier and spokesman for the first provisional revolutionary government formed after the shah fled in 1979. Mr. Entezam "has been tortured, kept in solitary confinement for 550 days at a stretch and been denied visits for 2½ years." He currently is ill and is being

denied treatment, Mr. Galindo said.

"Common methods of physical torture reportedly include suspension for long periods in constricted positions, burning with cigarettes and, most frequently, severe and repeated beating with cables or other instruments on the back and the soles of the feet," Mr. Galindo said. "It was reported that sometimes a blanket or cloth is stuffed into the victim's mouth to stop him or her from screaming and making it hard to breathe properly."

Torture to force confessions or exact information is forbidden under Iran's constitution, but Mr. Galindo noted that prohibition "continues to be flouted."

Mr. Galindo said there were 224 publicly reported executions from January-July 1992, including 66 for political crimes. Iranian defendants are executed by hanging. "There is excessive application of the death penalty," Mr. Galindo said.

Baha'is have come in for particular persecution in Iran, Mr. Galindo said.

"It has been reported that, since 1979, Baha'is have been systematically harassed and discriminated against for their religious beliefs and that 199 Baha'is have been killed; 15 other Baha'is have disappeared and are presumed dead."

"It was said that the arbitrary arrest and detention of Baha'is

continues in Iran," Mr. Galindo said.

Further, Baha'is are not recognised as having religious marriage or divorce rights, or inheritance rights. They are barred from entry to colleges and other higher institutions. As "unprotected infidels," their civil rights are often disregarded, and many Baha'is are refused jobs.

A U.S. spokesman for the Baha'i community, which is holding its world congress in New York this week, also denounced Iran.

"The most recent wave of persecution is said to have profoundly affected a whole generation of Baha'is in the Islamic Republic of Iran," said Firuz Kazemzadeh.

"Reportedly, they have been repeatedly offered relief from persecution if they were prepared to recant their faith," he said.

Mr. Galindo also cited other abuses against Iranians who protested against the government.

After riots broke out in April and May in the cities of Mashhad and Shiraz, provoked by government attempts to clear away shantytowns, "people were sentenced following unfair trials and procedures," Mr. Galindo found.

At least 18 persons were condemned to death, Mr. Galindo said, and "new public demonstrations in September are expected to result in further executions."

Violence shows fragility of Somali relief plan

NAIROBI (R) — One balmy night last week, 20 young aid workers in the ruined Somali town of Baidoa held a party to let off steam after their daily struggle against famine, disease and death.

A full moon cast shadows on their compound. Beer imported in the same aircraft that ferry relief food flowed freely. There was a Saturday night air and the scent of blossom after rain.

"Things are getting better here," a Red Cross worker told a visitor. "Security has improved, there are fewer gunmen and we're getting the daily death toll down dramatically — it's 70 now. It used to be 400."

Seventeen hours later scores of heavily-armed gunmen ambushed a convoy of trucks bringing relief grain to Baidoa. They hijacked at least eight of the trucks along with their precious cargoes.

"Bullets were whizzing everywhere. I took out my rosary and prayed. My two Red Cross companions prayed," said writer Edward Sheehan, who drove into the attack but escaped.

Two days later gunmen attacked a United Nations force of 150 Pakistani troops guarding relief operations at Mogadishu Airport. The same afternoon 18 aid workers trying to relax on the beach

were ambushed by predatory gunmen.

"Here we go again," said a U.N. relief worker in Nairobi. "It's back to square one. Tin helmet time. God would I like to teach those bastards a lesson."

He and others in the multi-million dollar operation to stop at least one million Somalis starving to death said that the attacks show that the relief campaign is still at the mercy of gunmen vying for control over the carcass of Somalia.

They also crucially highlight the U.N.'s inability to stamp its authority on a nation torn apart by clan feuding and the huge problems the world body will face if it ever sends a long-mooted 3,500-strong relief protection force there.

They believe that the aid machine has gathered considerable momentum in the past few weeks and that it has turned back the frontiers of famine from the dark days of June and July when at least 1,000 people were perishing every day.

The recent convoy ambush was clearly mounted by supporters of warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid because they have not been paid or fed during a campaign to recapture the southern town of

Bardere from a rival warlord, aid workers said.

"I saw Aidid's boys coming back from Bardere. They told me they had had no food, no water and no money so they had come back to Baidoa," said Mr. Sheehan, who is writing a book on what the U.N. calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Gen. Aidid's pride and national standing suffered a severe setback in October when the son-in-law of ousted President Mohamed Siad Barre, Siad Hersi Morgan, captured Bardere, some 300 kilometres southwest of Mogadishu.

Their feud symbolises the state of a nation which has crumbled into feuding clan fiefdoms since warlords united to drive Gen. Siad Barre from the capital in January last year.

Mr. Morgan's forces still control the town and Gen. Aidid is furious that the U.N. and private relief agencies have held talks with his Somali National Front (SNF) to get assurances about their safety so they can stop hundreds there dying daily.

The negotiations were tantamount to recognition of Mr. Morgan's authority over the town and enraged Gen. Aidid, who has vowed to recapture it irrespective

of how many dying foreign relief staff are at the time.

He has apparently from attacking the U.N. because of supply, shaky alliances with the Gen. Aidid withdrew to the deployment of UN troops to stop gunmen plund supplies at the UN ordered them to withdraw.

An angry U.S. State official said the UN persists in this posture clearly have defined responsibility for the starvation.

The force was deep first phase of a plan guncame out of the pit, the hub of an of bring 20,000 tonnes Somalia monthly.

Gen. Aidid showed thought of relief plans and the State Department the afternoon raid between 14 and 40 guards of the food convo Baidoa.

"I shall never forget jumped into the car the shooting started and had killed 12 people was hell," said Mr. S

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 7311119	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Documentary
18:00	News in French
18:15	Varities
18:30	News in Hebrew
18:30	News in Arabic
18:30	Saved by the Bell
21:00	Spotlight
21:30	Cludio
22:00	News in English
22:20	The Court Breakout
PRAYER TIMES	
04:46	Fajr
06:07	Dhuhr
11:23	Dhuhr
12:13	'Asr
16:37	Maghreb
17:58	'Isa
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 637040	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625435	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751	
Assam International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823624, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be partly cloudy and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and some calm.	
Amman Min./Max. temp. 03 / 12	
Aqaba 12 / 22	
Deserts 04 / 14	
Jordan Valley 09 / 19	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 88 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul	790730
Dr. Mohsen Merabeh	820425
Dr. Salim Al Daboubi	776751
Dr. Yousef Abdo	694916
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fordoun pharmacy	778334
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Natroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
St. Michael pharmacy	637660
Najrah pharmacy	623672
Najrah pharmacy	847632
DEBID:	
Dr. Ma'an Bargawi	(-)
Al Quds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Zaid Hawatneh	993267
Khalil pharmacy	845417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	63041
Rescue	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Police Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	773111
Jordan Television	731119
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615

HOSPITALS	
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)33200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:00	Aden (RJ)
05:00	Jeddah (RJ)
05:15	Aqaba (RJ)
05:25	London (RJ)
05:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
14:25	London (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
01:00	Aqaba (RJ)
01:00	Rome (RJ)
11:00	Tripoli, Benghazi (RJ)
11:10	Istanbul (RJ)
11:15	Saudi, London (RJ)
11:20	Berlin, London (RJ)
11:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:00	Cairo (RJ)
13:00	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:15	Riyadh (RJ)
13:20	New Delhi (RJ)
13:30	Damascus (RJ)
21:30	Cairo, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45	Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
05:00	Dubai (AZ)
05:15	Karachi (PI)
05:20	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
05:25	Berlin, Paris (RJ)
05:30	Moscow, Paris (RJ)
05:35	Rome (RJ)
05:40	Damascus (RJ)
05:45	Sanaa (RJ)
05:50	Beirut (ME)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
05:00	Dubai (AZ)
05:15	Karachi (PI)
05:20	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
05:25	Berlin, Paris (RJ)
05:30	Moscow, Paris (RJ)
05:35	Rome (RJ)
05:40	Damascus (RJ)
05:45	Sanaa (RJ)
05:50	Beirut (ME)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in JD	
Apple (red)	0.25
Banana	0.25
Orange (large)	0.25
Orange (small)	0.25
Carrot	0.25
Cucumber (large)	0.25
Cucumber (small)	0.25
Eggplant	0.25
Garlic	0.25
Green Olive	0.25

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

Jordan Times

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Relax sanctions on Iraq

THE U.N. Security Council is applying stringent conditions on Iraq before it considers lifting or easing its sanctions against the Iraqi people. These formidable strictures range from recognition of the U.N.-imposed Iraq-Kuwait border to the recognition of Kuwait itself and from improvement of Iraq's human rights record to the complete abolition of its mass destruction weapons. This continuing stance was reiterated during the most recent Security Council deliberations on Iraq. This attitude is also consistent with previous U.N. postures that refuse to give Baghdad any credit for its willingness to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The message to the Iraqi leadership has been very clear: The council has no political will to even ease sanctions against Iraq no matter how far Iraq goes to meet U.N. obligations. In this sense, a considerable injustice has been done to Iraq and its people. Having been victimised for its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and after paying dearly for flouting human rights and humanitarian law, it is high time to give some recognition and credit to what Baghdad has done thus far to fulfil its duties and commitments under international rules. True, there is still more to be done, especially in the direction of the promotion of pluralistic democracy and human rights. But fairness demands that sanctions against Iraq should have been relaxed to an extent commensurate with its meeting the requirements of the United Nations decisions.

This quid pro quo proposition is all the more justified in view of the fact that the people of Iraq are being victimised as a result of the inflexible application of the sanctions on their country. Relaxation of sanctions could also serve as an inducement to further improvement of Iraq's record on international decisions and norms.

For its part, the Iraqi regime is called upon to speed up the introduction of multi-party democracy. True and genuine democracy in Iraq, as elsewhere in the Arab World, is the only operational cure for its woes and difficulties. This thought marked one of the hallmarks of His Majesty King Hussein's speech to the Arab Nation Monday and formed a basic feature of his reference to beleaguered Iraq. The requisite political decision to normalise relations with Iraq can be expected to be taken as soon as Iraq moves faster in the direction of democracy even though its observance of the U.N. resolutions is not complete. The fact that grave miscalculations were made on the eve of the Gulf war makes it all the more convincing that in contemporary times there is simply no alternative to democracy as this alone ensures better opportunity to exercise wise judgement.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Tuesday tackled a nationwide speech by King Hussein at the graduation of a new batch of army officers, echoing his words about democracy and development and the need for national unity to confront external challenges. The paper said the King's address was comprehensive, covering all matters at the political level, emphasising the role of both the government and the Jordanian citizens under the umbrella of democracy. The speech reemphasised the country's option for political pluralism, respect for human rights and national unity among citizens of Jordan regardless of their origin and their background, said the paper. In his address, the King reiterated Jordan's pan-Arab endeavours and its efforts to save Arab interests from foreign domination and influence, warning that evil elements, acting in the dark and influenced by foreign powers, have no place in the Jordanian society, the paper added. Furthermore, the King emphasised Jordan's orientation towards unity among Arabs by calling for the creation of a confederation of Arab states that can ultimately lead to unity among the Arab countries. The Arab masses who listened to the King's address realise the deep meanings of the King's words and the Jordanian people no doubt lend their leader full support in his efforts, at the domestic and the pan-Arab and international levels, added the paper. It said that in his endeavours, towards the attainment of peace and realisation of the Jordanian people's aspirations, the King no doubt continues to win support from a united Jordanian family.

ON THE eve of the French president's coming visit to Jordan, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily wondered if Francois Mitterrand will be visiting the injured Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories where he will go before coming to the Kingdom. Mahmoud Rimawi said that Mr. Mitterrand had made a visit to former Yugoslavia and inspected the injured in Sarajevo, displaying humanitarian feelings and solidarity with the suffering people of the country. One can only look with admiration at the French president's visit to the embattled country and expect that he would make a similar gesture towards the Palestinians by visiting the injured among them who fell at the hands of the Israeli troops occupying Arab lands, noted the writer. He said that one has to remind the French president of the facts that the Israelis have been occupying the Arab territories for more than one quarter of a century. The French president ought to realise that the Israelis continue to reject the world community's decisions and continues to commit atrocities, in violation of all principles and international laws. Furthermore, he said, the Israelis continue to reject U.N. Security Council resolutions, refuse to abide by world resolutions concerning mass destruction weapons and continue to commit crimes against Palestinians. The writer said that the president no doubt realises by now that it is Israel which is endangering peace and security in the Middle East and that the Arabs are inclined to achieve a comprehensive peace based on justice to the coming generations.

Economic Forum

World economic order under fire

During the 1980s, the doctrine of market forces advanced triumphantly throughout the world under the banners of supply-side economics and deregulation. The triumphant march went along two main prongs: Thatcherism, on the European front, and Reaganomics, in the United States. In the process, the boundaries of the public sector were rolled back as intervention of the state in economic life was being both trimmed and condemned. A new world economic order was in the making. The 1990s will tell whether that march has gone too far, further than it should. When deregulation reaches, for example, the point of considering the idea of taking prisons into private ownership, suspicions of over-marketism take on a serious look.

Observers in this regard should turn their faces first to the United States, as the first challenges to the present world economic order are bound to come from there. Clintonomics intends, as purported, to revolutionise the American economy out of recession through emphasising the quality of the human capital and thereby undertaking vast investments in social and economic infrastructure. It follows that the related schemes and investment must be undertaken by the government, as they cannot be left to the discretion of the private sector whose priorities and time-ranking may be different and entirely unconvincing to the objectives of the economic policy of the new administration. The role of the state and the degree of its intervention in economic life will be different than that familiar during the Reagan-Bush era.

Another interesting and significant challenge is emanating from Europe and finds its roots in the notorious Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Community (EC). After differing on trade tariffs under the GATT, a draft deal was struck between the EC and the United States on farm trade and subsidies, which provided for cutting subsidies on the EC farm exports. Obviously, cutting export subsidies is compatible with the prerequisites of a world economic order based on free trade and global free markets. But it is not compatible with the socio-political interest of France where farmers constitute an important voting power. Thus, the first reaction of the French authorities was for the French prime minister to announce that France would reject the above deal because it was against the interests of the French and European agriculture.

This attitude meant that the French authorities had decided to put the French national interests — which are political and social in this case — ahead of the materialistic interests and theoretical niceties. Economic gains are necessarily materialistic, because the only task of economics is to show how more goods and services are produced. The so-called more efficient use of economic resources which the market economy alleges to foster completely overlooks the positive or negative political, social and moral contents of the additional output it brings about.

The French attitude is another shot at the "new" world economic order. And it is a significant one. The tensions that have recently developed within the European Community are, in one

sense, a reflection of the impact of the advanced degree economic integration that the member countries have achieved through their political interests and national sovereignty. These could have advanced to the verge of monetary unity: that is exactly point where economics start to encroach on the national political structures. Monetary integration is politics no less than economics. Hence it has triggered national sensitivities and tensions.

The "Economist," a bulwark of free market ideas, sees the election of Bill Clinton marks, in part, a disenchantment with both the rhetoric and the reality of market economics. It goes to admit that a weariness with the economics of the 1980s appears to have set in, and that in Britain, and elsewhere in Europe, pro-market forces are meeting stronger opposition. Adds that ideas such as competition, economic freedom, merging markets through deregulation are now being questioned. But the "Economist" distinguishes between the advanced countries on the one hand and the developing ones on the other. In former, free-marketism could have exceeded the limits as to damaging in certain fields. But the case is different in developing countries where there is still plenty of room for economic liberalism to improve the economic performance. It seems to be legitimate and reasonable.

The "new" world economic order has run against national lines worldwide: it will therefore be challenged once and again.

Germany — a story of success through unity

By Elia Nasrallah

IN 1990 the German people regained unity in peace and through self-determination. History, which repeated itself a hundred and twenty years after the first union of the German states under Chancellor Bismarck, saw Chancellor Kohl working at the head of the German ruling coalition to bring about unity again.

With five new landers joining the federation: Brandenburg, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Western Pomerania and Thuringia, Germany now consists of 16 federal states. Forty five years after the war Germany's division had been finally overcome.

It was the Moscow Treaty of Sept. 12, 1990, that marked the final settlement of the German question. The treaty ensured that when Germany achieved its unity, on Oct. 3, 1990, it would be sovereign and unencumbered by any open questions with regard to its foreign affairs and security status.

The reunification which came unexpectedly is no bed of roses neither for the East nor for the West Germans. Indeed, Chancellor Kohl was among the first Germans to realise the magnitude of the task before the country. His words on the eve of the reunification read: "Everyone knows that a difficult road lies ahead. Let us follow that together. If we do so and are prepared to make sacrifices, there is every chance that the result will be mutually beneficial."

The sacrifice is being made on both sides. While it is true that the West Germans were surprised at the smoothness of events, following the opening of the Berlin Wall on Nov. 9, 1989, that eventually led to unity in the following year, the East Germans were yearning all through the previous 45 years to achieve this unity. While it was clear to everyone in the Bonn government that this would be no easy process, the majority of the East Germans were not aware of how difficult it would prove to be. And yet, despite the difficulties which are bound to last for a few more years, citizens of various sectors and backgrounds have expressed their satisfaction with the turnout of events as they look ahead with renewed confidence towards the future.

Reunification has brought together two German states which belonged to two totally different political and social systems and military alliances. Its 357,000 square kilometres make it the third largest member of the European Community (EC), after France and Spain, and its 79 million inhabitants make it the most densely populated. Furthermore, Germany continues to be one of the community's most productive members in spite of the massive economic problems awaiting solution in the new federal states or landers.

The rebirth of Germany is multifaceted. Three dimensions, however, stand out: foreign policy, domestic setting and economy.

Foreign Policy

The united Germany now has a wider responsibility for further unifying Europe, as well as towards the development of Eastern Europe and the Third World. German policies remain, above all, the policies of peace. In our interviews with German officials and parliament members it was clear that Bonn's assistance to the eastern states of Europe can by no means diminish German interest in and aid for the countries of the developing world.

A high ranking official at the Press and Information Office in

Bonn said Germany has four fundamental objectives in foreign policy: continuing the process of European unity, promoting the further development of NATO, stabilising and supporting the reforms in Eastern Europe and maintaining the nation's partnership with the countries of the Third World.

Jordan, as a developing country, has a keen interest in maintaining its friendship with Germany, which has had an important contribution in developing the Kingdom. Germany has granted Jordan some DM 1.7 billion in financial and technical assistance, since the early 1960s.

In the view of Hans Klein, deputy speaker of parliament (the Bundestag), and other deputies, such partnership is bound to continue. In a message to world governments, Chancellor Kohl said after the unity: "The countries of Africa, Asia and America can continue to count on the solidarity of united Germany. We will not invest in German unity at their expense."

He also assured other nations that "now that Germany has regained unity it is prepared to participate in U.N. measures aimed at preserving peace."

For the East Germans the cherished idea of unity was always there, according to Dr. Dieter Benecke, head of Inter Nationes, a private agency that acts for the government in political, informational and other affairs.

Frustrated with the political, economic and social conditions experienced under communism since 1945, the people of the former GDR decided that the way to freedom and prosperity was through unity with the West and eventually their expectations swept away all objections that might have lingered in some circles, Dr. Benecke said.

With the exit of the GDR and the advent of united Germany, there is a general feeling among world nations that a substantial part of the country's economic effort will continue to be devoted to reconstruction, especially in the new landers. Dr. Benecke pointed out. But, he said, such feelings are also coupled with expectations that Germany will play an active role in the development of other nations as well as in that of the nations of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, which indeed is what Germany is doing at present. He said the world also expects Germany to contribute to finding solutions to global problems, such as environmental protection, safeguarding peace and combating poverty.

Domestic setting

Germany's division was a direct consequence of World War II, which ended in 1945, when through division the war victors aimed at stamping out national socialism and militarism.

The freely elected parliaments in Germany never renounced the right to reunite the country. Even the former East Germany's first constitution was based on the assumption that Germany remained undivided. But, while the western part of the country established a federalism based on pluralism, parliamentary democracy and the rule of law, with local authorities enjoying considerable autonomy, the former East Germany was in the hands of a monopolistic party, the Socialist Unity Party (SUD), with the economy based on central planning, state ownership of industry and the collectivisation of agriculture.

While West Germany enjoyed efficient industries, small enterprises and services and developed

the foundations of the market economy with people enjoying total freedom, East Germany suppressed all private initiative in all sectors and banned civil liberties such as free speech, the freedom to assemble and form parties, freedom of the press and travel.

Opponents of the regime in the former GDR were persecuted and millions of people were spied on by the state security service. The result was total collapse of the economy, low productivity of goods, which were no more wanted anywhere in the East or West, and the general situation was continually deteriorating.

The massive demonstrations in the GDR cities were triggered by the general feelings of popular frustrations worsened by the East German leaders' organising celebrations on Oct. 9, 1989, on the GDR's 40th anniversary. The demonstrations led to the opening of the Berlin Wall which led the East Germans to cast off the political chains one after the other.

Economy

One of the most difficult problems confronting the citizens of the former GDR and one which is causing the biggest changes in their lives is the transition from a centrally planned to a market economy. Basically this involves a transition from bumble security to a system which afforded opportunities but involved risks.

Most public buildings and houses had fallen into disrepair and the same applied to the entire infrastructure, like roads, railways, public utilities and telecommunications. Rivers, soil and air had been polluted to the worst degree, they added.

Faced with this situation, the

Indeed, thorough study of the situation in the East Berlin area, as well as in the five new landers, reveals to the researcher the fact that the East German regime had left behind a state of ruin, the extent of which was probably even unknown to the provisional government when it stepped down. This is because for decades East Germany's achievements had been greatly exaggerated for propaganda purposes. The faults had been papered over, the statistics falsified, Mr. Nawrocki said.

Both Mr. Nawrocki and Dr. Feeke Meents, deputy head of the Asian division of the Press and Information Office of the federal government in Bonn, explained that in the former GDR most jobs in industry, agriculture, commerce, the crafts and services were unproductive by western standards.

Many products were unmarketable and most factories were at best outdated. The two officials said that the GDR's economic structure was distorted: disproportionate production, monopolistic agricultural sector where mass production caused much ecological damage.

Most public buildings and houses had fallen into disrepair and the same applied to the entire infrastructure, like roads, railways, public utilities and telecommunications. Rivers, soil and air had been polluted to the worst degree, they added.

Faced with this situation, the

new jobs, unemployment is still growing because more people are being laid off than taken on.

While money is certainly not everything the people of the new states need, they require large amounts to deal with damage to industry, buildings, infrastructure and the environment. However, for the period from the day of German unity, Oct. 31, 1990, till the end of 1991, over 100 billion marks flowed to the new states. This does not include private investment in takeovers and holdings in the modernisation of industrial companies and service enterprises.

The Treuhander

A visitor to the eastern sector of Berlin should venture into the Treuhander, a federal trusteeship administration office charged with the process of privatisation of various formerly state-owned companies and businesses, and to ensure investment in projects hiring the largest number of workers and conducting the process reestablishing private ownership.

Senior Treuhander official Ulrike Grunrock told journalists visiting Berlin that the Treuhanderanstalt, an agency of public law, assumed the task of promoting the structural realignment of the economy, according to the requirements of the market, especially by financing the development of companies capable of reconstruction into competitive business and their privatisation.

Mrs. Grunrock said that in the past two years, and contrary to all predictions, the Treuhander succeeded in privatising 7,600 businesses in the new landers. She said that by dividing businesses and by creating useful economic entities, the number of businesses had grown to 11,662 from 8,000. There are guarantees for nearly 1.2 million jobs and promised investments of nearly 5 billion DM.

Investors, she noted, are welcome in the new landers and the federal government offers liberal facilities and incentives and provides aid to new investors, reaching up to 23 per cent of the total capital of the enterprise, plus privileges and other benefits. Mrs. Grunrock said that so far investors in the new states have come from France, Britain, Switzerland and the United States.

Workers

The status of workers in the new states largely depends on the enterprises that employed them. Many of these enterprises or companies have been closed down due to unproductivity and obsolete methods. Many others are retained for possible redevelopment and adjustment to the new market economy. Workers laid off are being paid up to 60 per cent of normal income for workers on pension while staying at home, particularly if they are above 40 years of age; those above 55 get an early retirement pension reaching up to 70 per cent of their income. However, the young workers are currently undergoing retraining or rehabilitation programmes in western companies and at the same time receiving sufficient income to live on.

In the former GDR there were 10 million active workers, but now the number has dropped to 6.5 million. Women have been largely affected because priority in employment is being given to men. The federal state is spending 45 billion DM on job recreation schemes and rehabilitation and retraining of workers from the former GDR this year. At

least 2,000 DM are laid off worker each. Latest figures show the 500,000 workers are in full-time training schools, 370,000 in job-creation centres and that there are 200,000 early retirement pensioners.

Our group of journal meetings in eastern Berlin workers in public administration offices and found that they had been members of the former Communist Party. Of course the federal government is arranging for workers to be trained and for western experts to the East to help reestablishment, production aspects of life.

Foreign workers are being offered to enjoy the benefits offered to the workers. But the Bonn government is facing increasing pressure from the extreme right to curtail the number of workers.

Lured by the wealth job opportunities in the so-called asylum seekers, illegal workers have been coming to the country. This year we were told 500,000 have flocked into Germany. In neighbourhoods employed workers, broodment and anxiety attacks on foreign workers prominently in the port town of Rostock. They played feel that they drive out the estimated non-Germans who, they are taking their place.

Dr. Henning Klotz, member of the party group of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) in Hamburg, said his party was ruling coalition to stand to curtail the flow of workers, but denied that approved of any attack on non-Germans.

Dr. Klotzmann said youth, who under the GDR involved themselves in sports programmes and activities sponsored by the state, are now left with nothing to do and are prone to acts of violence by the right wing factions. He said the federal parliament should take appropriate measures to deal with the flow of non-Germans, reducing them to a minimum. But he said that Germany can by no means allow the rebirth of Nazism and that all political parties on this and the same said of the overwhelming majority of the population.

Environment

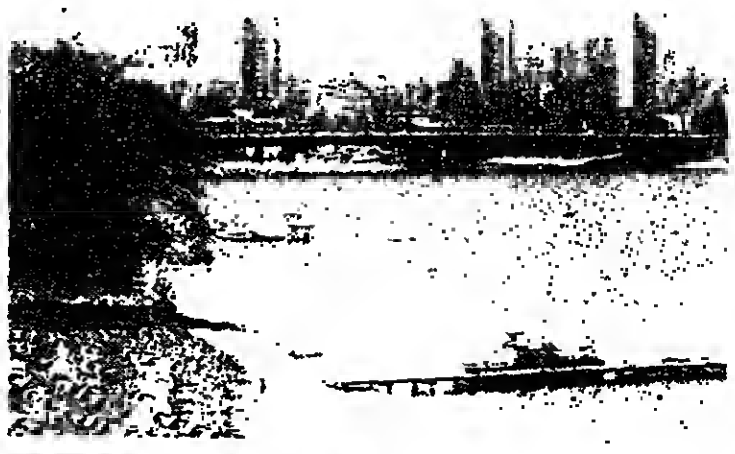
While there was much to remove at the end of World War II, people were resume production without regard to environmental pollution. Former GDR had extensive mitigated environmental impact to its bitter end.

According to Dr. Klotz, there are 150,000 square kilometres of land requiring environmental treatment: numerous industrial production facilities must be shut down and the shutdown take place for the sake of environment and human health.

Rehabilitation of victims of GDR regime

A complex process, which hardly be overlooked, is

(Continued on page 2)



A view from Potsdam, Germany

The process has frustrated many former East Germans who are not used to the free market economy.

According to Dr. Dieter Benecke, the people of East Germany thought they were acquainted with the standard of living in West Germany from watching western television. The psychological impact was great as the easterners discovered that they had a long way to go to catch up with the westerners.

Joachim Nawrocki, one of Inter Nationes' leading figures, gave a clear picture of the situation in the former GDR when he said: "Under the command economy in GDR there was no competition and no free pricing. Many raw materials, energy, staple foodstuffs as well as bus and train fares and rents were very cheap and price subsidies ran into billions. But the consequence was careless waste. Bread, for instance, was fed to cattle because it was cheaper than feed. People opened their windows to cool overheated houses and houses fell into decay because rents were not sufficient to meet running costs."

The government financed such subsidies by skimming off the profits from state enterprises, with the result that they too had little funds for investment. Furthermore, wages were very low.

Bonn government realised that, apart from the hundreds of billions of marks needed to rectify serious structural damage, it required for the reorganisation of industry, local government and social administration and the restoration of the old system of ownership. For the market economy is based on private ownership of the means of production which, but for a few remnants, had been obliterated in the GDR through socialisation, collectivisation and expropriation. This was a major stumbling block to new investment.

It soon became clear that this could not be done within the space of a few months or even years. Therefore, it was inevitable to see more disintegration than rebuilding. Unemployment was accelerating and could only be slowed down temporarily by means of special measures.

Although official figures put the unemployment rate in the new landers at 15 per cent, some estimate it at as high as 40 per cent of the total workforce. Anxiety again began to spread. Once more the people took to the streets in mass demonstrations. They had fought for and won their political freedom in the autumn of 1989, but now they were demanding economic security. Although over a million people in the eastern regions have found

مركز الأصل

Information appliances' could transform communications

By Bart Ziegler
The Associated Press

YORK — They will put grip character Dick Tracy on the national television series would be used.

out next year, these pocket-sized devices are a cross between a cellular phone, fax machine, and a videorecorder. The size of a videotape, they have been dubbed personal information appliances, or PIA's.

Mr. Sculley showed how a user could scribble an appointment — such as "Lunch Thursday with John" — on Newton's screen and find it later listed in an electronic calendar.

The device is able to recognise handwritten words, figure out what they mean and store that information in its proper place.

Apple says Newton will be on the market in the first half of next year. It won't discuss its price, but it is believed to be under \$1,000. Other information appliances may cost twice that much, though like all consumer electronics devices the prices should fall.

Analysts say the emergence of these devices will be aided by a convergence of the computer, communications and media industries. As these industries converge to digital technology, or computer language, information can more easily be stored, manipulated and transmitted to handheld devices.

But the basic reason for the birth of information appliances is that technology has advanced enough to allow the creation of tiny devices that pack the power of a computer and telephone.

Among the developments: — Fast, low-power microprocessors chips, which are ideal for such battery-powered gadgets. Examples include AT&T's hobot chip and the arm microprocessor a British company is making for Apple's Newton.

— A new type of memory chip, called "flash" memory, that can hold data even when power is shut off, unlike the memory chips in PCs. These flash chips could replace the delicate, heavy and power-hungry hard drives used in most of today's portable PCs.

— The growing sophistication of special software that can recognise printed handwriting, since information appliances will be too small to contain a keyboard.

— The emergence of wireless communications networks such as cellular phones and the Ardis

two-way radio system owned by Motorola and IBM. But all this technology has not yet been put into one seamless package, and doing so will require tradeoffs and compromises until more advancements are made, experts say.

In addition, the wireless communications networks still are not sufficiently developed to enable the intensive uses envisioned for information appliances.

"It's kind of a chicken-and-egg problem," said Larry Tesler, vice president of Apple's Newton group. He said the communications systems may not be developed until the investment can be justified by a large number of information devices on the market.

Meanwhile, the usefulness of the devices will be limited by the capabilities of the communications systems.

To that end, IBM joined a group of major cellular phone companies earlier this year in announcing they would modify their systems so they could send computer data as easily as phone calls.

Another hurdle is the lack of standards in the field. There is no basic operating system software for the devices, such as the DOS operating system that made IBM-type PCs popular. Without a standard operating system, software developers lack a basic framework around which they can craft specific uses for the gadgets.

Several companies are trying to promote a standard. One is Apple, which is licensing its Newton technology to others, including Japan's Sharp Electronics Corp. Sharp will make Newtons for itself as well as for Apple.

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German unity

(Continued from page 4)

habilitation of tens of thousands of persons who were wrongfully persecuted and for political reasons convicted, imprisoned or suffered obstruction to their professional advancement.

German officials say the unjust convictions must be annulled and those concerned compensated — both morally and financially.

Nearly 100,000 victims will be compensated with DM 1.5 billion, according to regulations being drafted at present.

To conclude, one can say that the German people are overwhelmingly happy to see their nation united once again. Of course sacrifice is required, as unity has a price, and it is being paid.

For the inhabitants of the old lander, unity requires the payment of more taxes to finance the process or reconstruction in the East and, partly, the development of Eastern European states closer to Germany. For the East, a new concept of life has dawned on them as they are gradually adjusting to the new needs of free life, market economy and success and progress, which can only come through hard competition and skill.

The former two parts of Germany are united again. So too is the capital, Berlin, to which government offices, parliament and other institutions are gradually creeping back. With its diligent and hard-working inhabitants and with its historical, industrial, cultural and other treasures, the city is reasserting itself once again as one of the most prominent industrial and cultural centres of the world.

The writer, on the staff of the Jordan Times, has just conducted a two-week tour of Germany.

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Turncoats reveal mafiosi's private lives

By Philip Pullella
Reuters

ROME — What does a mafioso do after a hard day's work extorting money?

Some relax by cooking gourmet meals for their friends and fellow clan members. Others like to spend time with the wife and kids, especially on religious holidays.

Details of the private lives of Sicilian mafiosi, along with their rites of initiation and bonding rituals, have been disclosed by "pentiti" — repentant former gangsters.

Most of their testimony to magistrates over the years has centred on the mafia's main business of drug smuggling, extortion, protection rackets, murder and the regular outbreaks of clan warfare.

But interspersed between this vital testimony has been a wealth of information about the mafiosi in their daily lives as husbands, fathers and lovers.

Cristina Mariotti, a journalist for the weekly magazine L'Espresso, has pored over the testimony to produce a picture of the off-duty mafia man.

Other insights have come in a recent book by sociologist Pino Arlacchi. Men of Dishonour, based on the confessions of Antonio Calderone, a major mafia turncoat.

In many ways today's mafioso still seems steeped in tradition.

He is expected to be faithful to his wife, stay clear of "loose women" and leave his family out of his business activities as much as possible.

One turncoat, Tomuccio Contorno, told magistrates that mafioso Toni Duca was killed because he had an affair with a disreputable woman.

Another young mafioso was ordered to quit the woman he loved because she was the daughter of a boss who had embarrassed the "family" by cheating on his wife.

Turncoat Marino Mannoia told magistrates his brother, a professional hit man for the Sicilian mob, was ordered to kill a man — not a member of the mafia — because he was bothering many women in the neighbourhood.

Tommaso Buscetta — the mafia's most significant turncoat, whose revelations led to a mass trial of more than 300 gangsters — himself was isolated within the mob partly because of an unstable private life and because he had married three times.

Informers like Mr. Buscetta paid a heavy price for violating "omertà," the mafia's code of silence. Reprisals claimed the lives of 10 members of his family, Mr. Contorno lost 30 relatives.

Although many mafiosi marry women from their own or other mob families they are advised to keep them out of the business.

"It never pays to let your wife know about mafia things," Mr. Contorno told magistrates.

At the same time, beginning in November 1987, people from Taiwan were allowed to visit their families on the mainland. Today the extraordinary increase in trade, investment and exchanges of people between China and Taiwan reflects a great lowering of tensions.

From November 1987 to the middle of this year, nearly 4 million people from Taiwan visited China, while 30,000 people from the mainland visited Taiwan. Two-way trade reached \$5.7 billion last year, up from \$2.7 billion in 1988. In the first half of this year, Taiwan businessmen invested more than \$2 billion in China, where they operate some 3,000 companies.

The gradual integration of the mainland and Taiwan economies has been matched by the integration of Hong Kong and its international markets with China's Guangdong Province. Singapore, too, is developing closer economic ties with China. A Greater China trading network has emerged, and it is expanding into Western economies as well as in East Asia. This integration has rapidly transformed the coastal provinces of China into market economies, and is

A Taiwan Example for the Liberalization of China

By Ramon H. Myers

TAIPEI — Taiwan and China are still technically at war. Yet a spreading network of economic and personal ties has led to a striking improvement in their relations. Despite the formal hostility, Taiwan's experience in gradually building political democracy on a firm economic and social base is a path that China would do well to follow.

Except for a brief period after the 1989 crackdown against the democracy movement, the Beijing government has been committed in recent years to economic reform and the enrichment of its people. But Chinese leaders insist that the Communist Party must retain supremacy. So if China is to have political reforms, these will come later and gradually.

This same policy sequence has characterized Taiwan's experience. The governing Kuomintang first promoted privatization and restructuring of the economy, then integrated the domestic and international markets. Finally, after nearly 40 years, political reforms were begun to relax state control over society.

Why the long lag? The Kuomintang perceived two major threats to the peaceful modernization process. One was a Communist threat from

China that, by exploiting frustration among some groups in Taiwan, might lead to internal subversion. The other was linkage of an independence movement overseas with an effort in Taiwan to take advantage of ethnic rivalry and bitterness between indigenous Taiwanese and Chinese who had come from the mainland.

By 1986, both threats had greatly receded because a prosperous urban society and economy had evolved. Taiwan's people were increasingly satisfied with the performance of their government. China's leaders were busy with domestic economic reform, and the Taiwan nationalist movement overseas had become enfeebled. Neither any longer posed a serious threat.

By July 1987, President Chiang Ching-kuo, leader of the Kuomintang, decided that the time was right to lift martial law, put in its place a new security law, empower different organizations to implement that law, liberalize the media and allow new political parties to form. A National Assembly was elected by popular vote last December, and other elective bodies are in the offing. Democracy had become a reality in Taiwan.

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drawing the hinterland provinces into this vast new commercial emporium. The lesson from Taiwan's experience is that when threats to national security start to recede and economic modernization becomes a sustained growth process, rural and urban prosperity flourishes. Then the transition to democracy can begin.

As the record in Taiwan shows, if central authorities encourage local elections in the villages, counties and cities, and allow provinces to have a representative body to manage provincial affairs, people become tolerant of their leaders and responsible in their management of affairs close to home.

China's leaders should learn from Taiwan's experience and steadily push privatization of economic activity, integrate markets and invest in education. They should postpone political reforms, except those allowing for local elections, until popular confidence in the government is high.

The writer, senior fellow at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, is co-author of a forthcoming book on Taiwan's democratization. He contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.

Kuwait-Iraq border post erected

VAIT (AP) — The United Nations Border Demarcation mission Monday completed the 106th and last pillar marking a permanent boundary between Iraq and Kuwait, the spokesman for U.N. said. Iraq has refused to recognise the work of the mission set up under Gulf war ceasefire terms. That was cited in the Security Council Monday as one reason not to relax the economic sanctions placed on Baghdad after the Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The new line gives 10 oil wells as well as an abandoned naval base at Um Qasr to Kuwait. In addition, at least Iraqi police posts below the border would have to be moved, U.N. said. There have been repeated clashes around the oil posts in the demilitarised zone, but spokesman Abdul-Khabbaz said the installation of the posts went without incident. "We can say we had full cooperation by both sides," he said. Iraq and the task went smoothly, without any major incidents," said Mr. Khabbaz. The last post went in near the port of Qasr, completing the five-week project to put concrete posts that are 20 kilometres along the 210 kilometre border, said Mr. Khabbaz, the spokesman for the United Nations Iraq Kuwait Demarcation Mission.

Security Council

(Continued from page 1)

er later responded that Iraqis were still inside Iraq.

He would urge you to investigate in any way possible," Al told the council.

Aziz further insisted that U.N. Council resolutions demanding that it allow humanitarian aid to reach Kurds and Iraqis were politically motivated by Western powers on council.

Aziz accused the United States and Britain of trying to launch Operation Provide Comfort to protect Kurds in northern Iraq in 1991, the collapse of a post-Gulf war uprising against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

He said the West's concern was the Kurds when Turkey re-

cently launched an offensive against Turkish Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq, Mr. Aziz asked.

Iraq says it has no incentive to cooperate if the embargo remains indefinitely.

U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister John Major have said they would oppose lifting the embargo as long as President Hussein remains in power because they consider him a destabilising force in the region.

Diplomats said Iraq's council presentation appeared aimed as much at the incoming Clinton administration as at the council as a whole. But Iraqi diplomats have said Baghdad does not expect any short-term changes in U.S. policy.

Rain storm gradually ends

(Continued from page 1)

minister said in his state- Monday that Jordanian far-

also advised to grow es, onions, garlic, maize and feed of the kind that is stored.

of the crops are grown in rdan Valley region which is ed normally from the King

Talal dam.

The heavy snow and rain and flood in the past winter season damaged vast areas of crops in the Jordan Valley and southern Jordan. The ACC this year extended soft loans to farmers to enable them to plant and develop farmlands.

France 'retains' right

(Continued from page 1)

osition deputies indicate ill support the government

that a no-confidence motion be filed against Mr. Beregovoy for his "disastrous agricultural policy."

ne deputy urged Tuesday

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Navratilova considers retirement, maybe

NEW YORK (AP) — Once the most dominant figure in tennis, Martina Navratilova is considering retirement — with an emphasis on the word "considering."

"Chances are next year will be my last year playing singles full-time," Navratilova said after her 7-5, 6-3, 6-1 loss to Monica Seles in the Virginia Slims Championships final.

"I still will play some matches here and there. I don't want to make a farewell tour or anything like that, but I do want to give the fans a chance to come out and see me because that may be the last year."

Retirement was brought up after she was whipped solidly by Seles in the year-ending, 16-player tournament. Actually, Navratilova played some of her best tennis in recent times. It's just that Seles was exceptional.

It was the third consecutive year Seles has won the Virginia Slims Championships and the second straight year she has beaten Navratilova in the final. But at age 35, Navratilova realizes there will never be another 1983 for her, or another 161 tournament titles.

"I can't just do a massage and be ready to go the next day. I really have to take care of my body and everything has to be just right," she said. "When you're 25, it's much easier to overcome a pulled muscle or a stomach cramp or whatever."

A big risk against Seles Sunday was going to the net, the only way

Navratilova plays the game. Yet, when she was at her favorite spot on the court, she became a target for Seles' laser-sharp passing shots.

For her part, Seles paid tribute to Navratilova for bringing "into tennis a lot of strength on and off the court, and everybody is doing that. Before, it was just mostly practicing tennis on the court."

She said her first recollection of Navratilova "was against Hana (1981) or Chris (in 1992) at the Wimbledon final, and I brought home a poster of her."

Seles has been called dominating, winning 70 matches and losing just five this year; she was 74-6 in 1991, while in the past two years winning 21 of the 30 tournaments in which has played and finishing runnerup 10 times. Only once has she failed to reach the final.

But in 1982, Navratilova posted a 90-3 match record, followed that with 86-1 in 1983 and 78-2 in 1984.

She won 54 consecutive matches from the French Open in 1983 until Jan. 15, 1984, when she lost to Hana Mandlikova. Then, she didn't lose again until Dec. 6, 1984, a record stretch of 74 matches.

That's a combined 128-1 mark. And while she was dominating in singles, she teamed with Pam Shriver to post an unbelievable doubles record. From June 23, 1983, until July 9, 1985, Navratilova and Shriver won a record 109 consecutive doubles matches.



Martina Navratilova, who dominated women's tennis in the 80s, has had an outstanding record in singles and doubles tournaments, including a record 9 Wimbledon titles.

And they won every Grand Slam women's title from the 1983 Wimbledon until the 1987 French Open, a total of 12 consecutive crowns.

Last year, the two teamed up again to win the Virginia Slims Championships doubles. This year, they fell in the semifinals to

Aranxa Sanchez Vicario and Helena Sukova.

"We're still going to play some doubles before our careers are over," Navratilova said, "but not fulltime. Pam will have a fulltime partner next year and I won't have one. I'm not going to play that much doubles."

Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal set to become NBA's latest sensation

NEW YORK (AP) — Shaq attack is spelled Shaq Attaq on a new line of basketballs inspired by the arrival of Shaquille O'Neal in the NBA.

With that as a starting point, consider other possibilities resulting from Shaq's phenomenal opening weeks:

— Shaq, with the speed and power and most of the size of a mag truck, is cragging the bag of NBA defenses this season.

— "We lag the ability to stop him," a coach might say.

— And anyone in his way can expect to get smacked to the floor.

The name Shaquille, taken from the Koran, means "little one," which hardly applies to the 7-foot-1, 300-pound Orlando center who is turning the NBA into his personal playground.

He's already among the league leaders with 25.6 points, 16.8 rebounds and 3.3 blocked shots in his first eight games, but numbers alone don't tell the story of his early impact.

"He's a nightmare for the other

team," said teammate Nick Anderson, who has found the additional room on the court afforded by O'Neal to his liking with a 26.1 scoring average.

"I dream about being part of the team that can really grow together and do some great things," O'Neal said. "We may even be able to do some great things this year."

With O'Neal, Anderson, Dennis Scott — averaging 18.3 — and playmaker Scott Skiles, the Magic clearly are making strides in that direction.

Orlando, 21-61 last season, is in first place in the Atlantic Division with a 5-3 record despite Saturday night's 92-77 loss at New York.

That game represented O'Neal's first test against an elite center, and while the Magic lost 92-77, O'Neal more than held his own against Patrick Ewing, outscoring him 18-15 and outrebounding him 17-9.

"He's a great player," Ewing

said. "He plays hard and is very strong. He knows how to find people when he needs help in the post. He's going to be a great pro."

O'Neal, who grew up in Newark, New Jersey, and remembers going to games at Madison Square Garden with his father, said he tried not to take the attitude that he has to regard games against Ewing, David Robinson and Hakeem Olajuwon as different from the rest of the 82-game schedule.

Ewing, Olajuwon and Robinson all get consideration as the best current NBA centers, but some observers are bypassing them and begin comparing O'Neal to Wilt Chamberlain, who dominated statistically if not with championships.

Is Shaq another Wilt?

"Maybe," said his coach, Matt Guokas, who played with Chamberlain. "But remember, when I played with Wilt he was 28 and in his prime. Shaq is 20."

"Yes, he will be special."

One area that prompts comparison with Chamberlain and O'Neal is their problems with free throws. Chamberlain averaged 54.0 per cent in his NBA career, O'Neal is at 58.5 per cent in his first eight games.

Chamberlain, meanwhile, never fouled out in 1,205 NBA games, while O'Neal already has one disqualification with six fouls and has missed time with foul trouble in several other games.

Other than foul trouble, Guokas has no trouble with O'Neal.

"He's like a sponge," Guokas said. "He absorbs everything you throw at him. His attitude is terrific. And he handles all the outside stuff wonderfully."

So what does Shaq need to be even better?

"I need to work on my jump shot, my free throws and my all-around game," he said. "I know where I come from, and I don't read my own articles because you guys make me out to be superman."

Rangers' European hopes rocked by McCoist's injury

LONDON (R) — Glasgow Rangers' European Cup hopes have been dealt a severe blow by injury to three Scottish internationals including prolific goalscorer Ally McCoist for Wednesday's match against Marseille.

Captain Richard Gough has been out for three weeks with a groin strain and McCoist and midfielder Stuart McCall broke down in training this week with calf and neck injuries.

McCoist is manager Walter Smith's biggest worry for the group a game in Glasgow as the Scottish striker is having an excellent season with 32 goals in 26 appearances including two against Leeds in the last round.

Rangers' goalkeeper Andy Goram believes they can kick off the European Champions' League series with a win against the French champions.

Goram said: "Not many people in England believed we could beat Leeds in the last round and I don't suppose there are many Frenchmen who think we can beat Marseille either."

Marseille, struggling to score goals this season, expect to have

German international striker Rudi Voeller back from a rib injury to boost in attack too, but on Croatian import Alen Boksic.

Marseille's Belgian coach Raymond Goethals, recalled in place of Jean Fernandez last week after a series of poor results, is expected to name a defensive line-up with five men at the back and possibly a place for experienced full back Manuel Amoros.

Amoros, who holds the French record of international caps, lost his berth in both the Marseille and France sides this season but played as substitute against Strasbourg Friday.

Former Marseille striker Jean-Pierre Papin returns to the AC Milan side in place of Daniele Massaro for their European Cup Group B match against Sweden's IFK Gothenburg in Milan.

Papin and midfielders Demetrio Albertini and Stefano Eranio are the likely changes from the side who were held to a draw by Internazionale, with Papin playing alongside Dutchman Marco

Van Basten in attack. Dutchman Ruud Gullit is expected to miss out, with Frank Rijkaard certain to play.

Striker Gigi Lentini, one of

seven Milanese players on international duty in Scotland last week, admitted that the Italian champions were going through a difficult phase.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Women's basketball tournament begins today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four teams Wednesday begin competition in the women's basketball tournament organized by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. The participating teams are Al Orthodoxi, Al Ahli, Al Jazireh and the Rosary Sisters School teams. Six matches will be played over a period of five days. Al Orthodoxi play the Rosary School and Al Ahli play Al Jazireh in the opening matches today at the Orthodox Club court.

Charity walk to be held Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — A charity walk organized by the Society for the Deaf/Raja Centre in Yajuz will be held Friday, Nov. 27. The walk, organized on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday will start from the Manhal School in Jubeiha and proceed through University Road and finish at the Sports City. Parking will be available at the Sports City and buses will transport walkers to the start by 9 a.m.

Liverpool beat Queens Park Rangers

LONDON (R) — Ronny Rosenthal scored three minutes from time to give Liverpool a 1-0 away victory over Queens Park Rangers as John Barnes made his return to the Premier League Monday night. Rosenthal's strike from the left side across Rangers' goalkeeper Tony Roberts into the net was a bitter blow for the London club who dominated the match, especially in the first half when striker Les Ferdinand proved to be a constant threat. England striker Barnes, out of action with Achilles tendon trouble sustained playing for England six months ago, made his return in the 18th minute when Ian Rush was forced off with a hamstring injury. The victory moved struggling Liverpool into 11th place in the 22-team league. Rangers remain fifth.

Germans make early bid to stage 2006 World Cup

FRANKFURT (R) — Germany will present its case for staging the 2006 World Cup finals to the international governing body FIFA early next year even though a decision is not expected before the turn of the century. "If we want to stage the event again after 1974, we must report our interest early to the international organizations and back it up with concrete plans," German Soccer Federation (DFB) President Egldius Braun said Tuesday. "For that reason we will be putting our plans to FIFA at the start of next year." Germany last staged the finals in 1974 when the former West Germany won the tournament.

Celtics lose again

HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP) — Mookie Blaylock scored 23 points in Hartford, Connecticut, including four in overtime, as the Atlanta Hawks handed the Boston Celtics their sixth straight loss, 101-97 in overtime Monday. Blaylock hit a 20-foot jumper with 20 seconds left to give the Hawks a 99-97 lead. Blair Rasmussen knocked away Dee Brown's inside pass to Kevin McHale with 5.8 seconds left and Dominique Wilkins grabbed the loose ball. Wilkins, who had two rebounds and two assists in overtime, was fouled by Brown and hit two free throws with 4.3 seconds left. The Celtics, who shuffled their lineup to try to break out of their worst start since 1978, missed seven of eight shots in overtime, while the Hawks made three of eight.

McRae loses first place in British RAC Rally

CHESTER (R) — Britain's Colin McRae lost first place to Spain's Carlos Sainz after a road accident on his way to Tuesday's first stage of the British RAC Rally at Grizedale in the Lake District. McRae, driving a Subaru Legacy is in seventh place after losing more than four minutes. Meanwhile, former boxing world champion Barry McGuigan was knocked out of the rally when his Vauxhall seized on Monday's 11th stage. The former featherweight, now retired from the ring and rallying to raise money for a motor industry charity, said the engine of his car went on the 20-mile Myherin stage in North Wales.

Injured Platt may play against Milan

TURIN (R) — Juventus and England midfielder David Platt is undergoing intensive therapy on a knee injury in a bid to get fit for Sunday's top-of-the-table clash with AC Milan. The 26-year-old playmaker who joined Juventus this season will have an operation on the cartilage which has bothered him all season, but may still play against league leaders Milan, Juventus officials said. A decision on whether he can play Sunday will probably be taken Wednesday afternoon, they said, adding the operation could take place Thursday if he is ruled unfit.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25,
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Fox

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Engage in what ever interests you today that has to do with charm, beauty, the romantic or lighter side of life, art, music, culture and any like interest that will lift your spirits.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) During the day avoid pushing any initiatives at your dwelling while in the evening make sure you carry through recreation arrangements already made.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take care during the daytime that you are very exact about the manner in which you handle communications; tonight do the same with a home situation.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider how you can top off some unnecessary expenses during the day and make your assets greater, then tonight use much care while in motion.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You feel you are not getting the personal pleasures out of life that you want the most and later find it because money isn't flowing to you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You need to be very careful who you confide in or private will leak out today but tonight keep calm and objective when with mutual acquaintances.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have an acquaintance who

can irritate you but give no of displeasure and later facts from attachment terms you.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Do whatever your duties are in a routine, fast fashion during the while tonight is not any personal demands.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A new course much more study and before putting into motion the evening try to avoid spotlight if possible.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You way to attend to whatever obligations face you avoid that pressure to some new undertaking.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Open up your assets greater, partner would bring a suit so be truly and while tonight carefully means between the two.

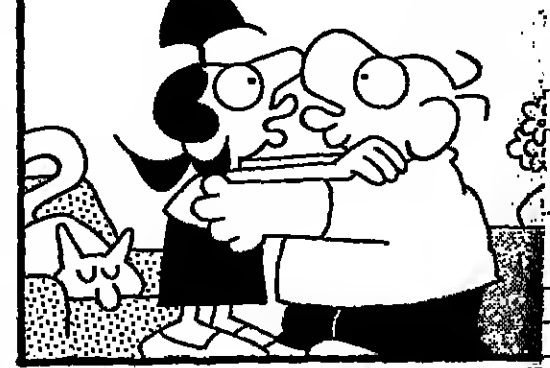
AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) Do whatever you are in a stick-to-itiveness and the day goes along but tonight don't get in new enterprise.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) Plan any recreation means now with no dis if they later have to about and tonight relax tep dull duties.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Ha

HARRI



"I hope you appreciate this, Stanley. It wasn't easy finding pizza flavored lipstick!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD!

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUNAL

REHKI

TANGOU

SOOPUR

Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: AZURE OAKEN DONKEY POWDER

Answer: How the pianist finally lost weight — HE "FOUNDED" AWAY

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS
1 Native African
5 Forest food
9 Greeting
14 Foretold
15 Native Peruvian
16 Fr. spe
17 Birthstone
18 Great performer
19 He wrote "The Catcher in the Rye"
20 Statesman Lee
23 Highland
24 Devils from course
25 Lamb's dam
28 Smeat
31 Donor's one tenth
36 Cartoonist
37 Additive, for short
38 Grit
40 Food the bill
41 General's God
44 Islam's God
45 Acres Patrick
46 Recording of notes
47 Abounded
48 Boos
51 US humorist
52 Legal matter
54 Sea creature
56 US General Lee
62 Line of a letter
63 Noodle case
64 Vicinity
67 "A Ball for" —
68 Alert
69 Metallic element
70 Troglodyte
71 Dross
72 Fencing sword

DOWN
2 Hero's kin
3 Regan's father
4 Dark
5 Clio
6 Theater acronym
7 Surgical memento
8 Past due
9 By this means
10 Tied
11 Prevaricator
12 Ear's wife
13 Single
21 Blackguard
22 Cloche
25 Accalm
26 Bird
27 Back-headed
29 Atop
30 Cat's cap
32 Smeat
33 Long-necked water
34 Beltme
35 Mode
36 Regan's father
39 Jacob's twin
42 Because of that
43 Pushing rudely
44 — Alt
50 Notable years
53 Frets
55 Fair
56 Make over
57 Algerian city
58 Climbing plant
59 Lat. abbr.
60 —
61 Owl per
62 —
63 —
64 —
65 Export

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ8 75 ♣J762 ♠QJ93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠6 ♣K95 ♠KJ8 ♠KJ5
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
3 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠6 ♣K95 ♠KJ8 ♠KJ5
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

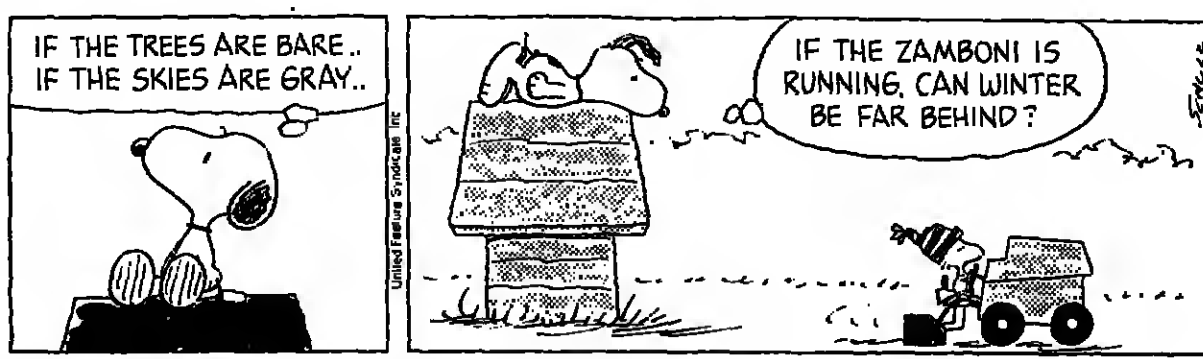
Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold:
♠KJ8 75 ♣J762 ♠QJ93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠6 ♣K95 ♠KJ8 ♠KJ5
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ8 75 ♣J762 ♠QJ93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Fighting in Bosnia as U.N. prepares to help stranded towns

SARAJEVO (R) — Mortar shells hit besieged Sarajevo Tuesday after a day of battles in several parts of Bosnia as U.N. relief workers prepared to deliver aid to two stranded Muslim towns.

Bosnian radio said that the old town section of the besieged capital was hit by mortar fire Tuesday morning, and fighting was reported in the outlying district of Vogosca.

During the night there was a heavy artillery attack on the edge of the old town as well as on the suburbs of Hrasno and Dobrinja, the radio added.

On Monday fighting was reported across Bosnia, despite the ceasefire in force for nearly two weeks, particularly in the Muslim-held northern towns of Gradacac and Tuzla.

Fighting also raged until late in the day around Brcko and Tazsanj in the north, Olovo and Bugojno in the centre and Konjic in the southwest.

In Sarajevo U.N. relief workers were preparing to deliver food Wednesday to the starving towns of Gorazde and Srebrenica, besieged by Serb forces for weeks. They have threatened to suspend aid to 100,000 Serbs in eastern Bosnia if they are obstructed.

Previous attempts to get aid to Srebrenica were thwarted by Serbs, including women and children who lay down in the road to halt vehicles.

Officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said aid shipments to the Serbs would only resume if

local leaders allowed UNHCR convoys through to the stranded towns of Gorazde and Srebrenica.

"The Serbs will suffer, but they are not at risk. The people of Gorazde and Srebrenica are at risk...they are at the limit of their capacity to survive," said UNHCR special envoy Jose Maria Mendiluce.

The suspension marked a turning point in the U.N. handling of aid shipments in Bosnia and signalled that the UNHCR was prepared to get tough with local warlords.

"Every week we are attacked, shot at, shelled, diverted, delayed," Mr. Mendiluce said. "But we have assumed a very important responsibility — that is, to keep alive the victims of this conflict, and we shall do it."

Mr. Mendiluce said convoys to the two towns would set out Wednesday. If they succeeded, aid would be resumed to some 100,000 Serbs affected by the UNHCR decision.

The Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) quoted Serb military sources Monday evening as saying they would do everything necessary to ensure the safe arrival of the convoys.

Mr. Mendiluce said it had been his own decision to "play poker" with the Serb authorities. But he added that he had the full support of Sadako Ogata, the high commissioner.

Mr. Mendiluce said while the affected Serbs received 1,228 tons of relief aid in early November, people in the two Muslim

towns, who total roughly the same number, got nothing.

The UNHCR relief missions are just one of the international efforts to ease the situation in Bosnia and Croatia which are blocked, violated or simply ignored by one or more of the warring Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

U.N. peacekeepers said Monday there had been over 100 violations of a no-fly zone in Bosnia and accused Croats, Muslims as well as Serbs of holding up aid supplies.

They reported increasing lawlessness in Serb-controlled regions of Croatia, with racketeering and attacks on civilians, particularly old people, by armed members of both sides.

"It is increasingly bleak and anarchic as winter sets in," said Cedric Thornberry, deputy head of the U.N. Peacekeeping Force (UNPROFOR).

In a fresh bid to stop arms reaching Bosnia and to tighten a U.N. embargo on Serbia and Montenegro, the two republics which make up the rump Yugoslavia, Western warships put a naval blockade into action Monday by stopping and searching three ships in the Adriatic.

Warships Tuesday stopped and searched a Montenegrin merchant vessel in the Adriatic but later let it go.

Western European Union (WEU) warships subsequently stopped a further two vessels whose cargoes are currently being checked, an Italian Navy spokesman said Tuesday.

He gave no further details on the identity of the latest two ships stopped.

Romanian President Ion Iliescu said in an interview published Tuesday his country would abide by U.N. resolutions tightening a naval embargo against Yugoslavia but added it could not check foreign vessels on the Danube.

"Of course we will apply U.N. resolutions," Mr. Iliescu, who arrived in Paris for a one-day visit Tuesday, told the daily newspaper Le Figaro.

"We can control what is happening in Romanian ports but we cannot control Russian or Ukrainian ships on the Danube," he said.

The United Nations Security Council, in measures to tighten sanctions, last week banned the trans-shipment of important commodities like oil, coal, metals and rubber through Serbia and Montenegro without special permission from the Council's Sanctions Committee.

Commenting on suspicions that Romanian vessels transporting goods along the Danube from Hungary to Romania were in reality unloading in Yugoslavia, Mr. Iliescu said:

"Romania has not been accused. There has only been suspicion about the efficiency of controls along the Danube."

Mr. Iliescu said the reinforcing of international controls on the Danube was a Romanian idea.

But he agreed that his country sympathised with the Serbian cause, saying: "Serbia is our historical ally and closest neighbour."



U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Christopher Stooks from Oregon sounds the last bugle call for retreat at the U.S. Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines (AFP photo).

U.S. flag lowered for last time at Subic

SUBIC BAY NAVAL BASE, Philippines (Agencies) — The Stars and Stripes was lowered here for the last time Tuesday as the United States closed its largest naval base in Asia and ended nearly a century of U.S. military presence.

Members of the crowd of about 3,000 people wept as the U.S. flag was lowered and a giant Philippine banner was raised about 10:01 a.m. (0201 GMT) under a brilliant blue sky.

Scores of bargains hugged, kissed and wept as the USS Belleau Wood slipped out of Subic Bay Tuesday.

On board the grey helicopter carrier were the last few hundred American servicemen to leave Washington's former colony after Filipino senators forced the closure of all U.S. bases.

"I am going to miss you," yelled one Marine as the ship eased away from the wharf of Subic Point Naval Air Station, loudspeakers blaring "I'm proud to be an American."

"I promise I'll come back," shouted another to the girls who helped give Olongapo City next to the base its reputation as one of the wildest navy towns in the Pacific.

The women, some wearing skin-tight shorts, waved handkerchiefs wet with tears or turned away, saying they could not watch the Marines leave.

In the distance across the bay a huge Philippine flag flew along with the United States flag at the first time over Subic Naval Base, once the American Navy's largest shipyard in Asia.

President Fidel Ramos earlier helped raise the red, white and blue flag in bright sunshine and declared the Philippines free of foreign troops for the first time since Spanish occupation in 1571.

The final act of the withdrawal came when U.S. Ambassador Richard Solomon and four admirals handed back Subic Point Naval Air Station to Gen. Ramos and the last 516 Marines and sailors prepared to leave. Subic Bay was given back in September.

Gen. Ramos pledged friendship with the United States, which ruled the country from 1898 to 1946, but called for a review of the mutual defence treaty and a clear statement of

the extent of the U.S. commitment.

He also urged the United States to stand by its obligation to help the 3,000 "throwaway kids" of Olongapo — the Amerasian children fathered by generations of U.S. servicemen.

Even after the withdrawal, the 1951 defence treaty commits the United States to come to the aid of the Philippines if it is attacked.

Gen. Ramos called for new life to be breathed into the treaty to cater for new conflicts and rivalries, apparently referring to the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

"Two matters in particular have to be clarified, when and where an attack on one party is to be regarded as an attack on the other party as well, and the precise point at which retaliation to attack is to be waged," he said.

The United States has repeatedly said it does not recognise any claim to the Spratly islands claimed in whole or in part by China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines.

Yeltsin seeks 'political truce' with opposition

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday appealed for a "political truce" with opponents just two weeks before a critical session of parliament that he said could determine the future of Russia.

"It is clear that Russia needs a respite from completely useless political confrontation," Mr. Yeltsin told leaders of autonomous republics within Russia. His remarks were reported by the ITAR-TASS and Interfax news agencies.

Mr. Yeltsin suggested a stabilisation period of one to one and a half years, saying that continued political bickering "can bleed the country dry and lead it to a dead end."

"It is necessary to have a political truce for the duration of the stabilisation period," he said.

The Russian Congress of People's Deputies is scheduled to convene Dec. 1. Hardliners have said they will seek to oust Mr. Yeltsin's acting prime minister, Yegor Gaidar, and strip Mr. Yeltsin of his power to issue presidential decrees.

The 1,046-member parliament is a holdover from the Soviet era. It is dominated by former Communists elected in 1990, long before the Soviet Union collapsed.

Parliament deputies must "set the working tone in the formation of a new Russian state," Mr. Yeltsin said. "Only this will make it possible to preserve Russia as a single, independent, unified state and give an extra impetus to economic reforms."

The speaker of parliament, Russian Khasbulatov, said in a newspaper interview published Tuesday that lawmakers had made several concessions to Mr. Yeltsin but warned him not to mistake that for weakness.

"You can rest assured that the legislature will be able to stand its ground," he told Nezavisimaya Gazeta.

He also warned those who would concentrate more power in the president's hands.

"What worries me most of all is the utter irresponsibility of such people who do not even seem aware that they are playing with

fire," Mr. Khasbulatov said.

"Despite the calls that are heard today from the left and from the right for an authoritarian, Communist or 'democratic' regime, the implementation of such plans would scotch all hopes for Russia's revival."

"This country will simply not survive another dictatorship," he said.

Also Tuesday, Mr. Yeltsin announced that he would fire Yegor Yakovlev, the head of state broadcasting.

Mr. Yakovlev has been increasingly criticised for TV coverage of ethnic conflicts, particularly in the northern Caucasus. Mr. Yeltsin said he was sacking him "for serious violations" in the coverage. There was no mention of who would replace Mr. Yakovlev.

Meanwhile, Russian newspaper Tuesday devoted much attention to a recent attack on Mr. Yeltsin and his team of reformers by a headline newspaper, Sovetskaya Rossiya.

The newspaper Saturday suggested Mr. Yeltsin's reforms were being carried out on behalf of

U.S. intelligence agencies. Yeltsin spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov denounced the article as a "provocation" related to the upcoming congress.

In an ironic commentary, the newspaper Moskowsky Komsomlets wrote Tuesday: "Boris Yeltsin works for the CIA — though he himself is unaware of this."

The newspaper then suggested that the authors of the Sovetskaya Rossiya article look into their own expenses, foreign trips and foreign guests they have received.

"Can it turn out suddenly that you yourself are agents of some other influence, thought you do not suspect it?" it asked.

The newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda took a tongue-in-cheek approach to the uproar, suggesting that "it's advisable to take a fundamental approach to the matter and look into historic roots of the phenomenon (of 'agents of influence')."

"Undoubtedly, Peter the Great would have been the agent of all times, agent 007," it said.

141 feared killed in China plane crash

PEKING (AP) — A Boeing 737 jetliner crashed Tuesday in southern China near the tourist city of Guilin and all 141 people aboard were feared dead, officials said.

The China Southern Airlines flight, which started in Canton, crashed about 27 kilometres from Guilin, said an official from a Western aviation company in Peking.

The Foreign Affairs Office in Guilin said debris from the crash was scattered over a wide area of mountainous terrain, making it unlikely that anyone had survived.

The Spanish embassy received unofficial reports that two Spaniards were aboard the plane, said Jorge Romeu, an embassy attache. He said he called the

Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) but was unable to get any information about the crash.

CAAC officials in Peking said 133 passengers and eight crew members were aboard the plane when it crashed near Guilin, famed for its limestone peaks rising above the Pearl River.

Officials in the Guangxi Zhang autonomous region, where the crash occurred, refused to give details of the crash.

"We are looking and investigating what happened," said an official at China Southern. The official said the weather in Canton and Guilin was clear and that weather was not a cause of the crash.

About 20 to 30 minutes before the plane's scheduled arrival at around 9 a.m., the pilot radioed that everything was fine, said the Western aviation source. Like the China Southern official, he spoke on condition of anonymity.

The flight normally lasts an hour.

The plane was a 737-300, a newer generation jet, Boeing spokesman Jack Gamble said in Seattle, where the company is based.

He said the plane was delivered in May 1991 and had 4,265 flight hours and 3,153 landings, both low numbers.

The crash was the fifth air disaster in China in four months.

Reynolds faces defeat at Irish polls

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds faces double defeat Wednesday in an abortion referendum and a general election that could topple him after just nine months in power.

Opinion polls point to Irish voters rejecting plans to lift this mainly Catholic country's blanket ban on abortion and show that Mr. Reynolds has virtually no chance of winning an overall majority in a snap general election.

After a television debate Monday night with opposition Fine Gael leader John Bruton, most commentators agreed there had been no clear winners and Mr. Reynolds still has a tough fight on his hands.

The two clashed constantly but did agree on one thing — that Labour Party leader Dick Spring's demand to hold the premiership in rotation was impractical and impossible.

Mr. Spring, a former rugby international who is the most popular politician in Ireland, has demanded a rotating premiership as his price for participating in any coalition.

In the runup to the election, Mr. Reynolds has moved swiftly to attack speculators in Europe's turbulent foreign exchange markets.

The central bank sent overnight money rates soaring to 30 per cent Monday.

Today declared:

"The royals are to public relations what Laurel and Hardy were to the removal business."

British taxpayers devote an annual £10 million (\$17 million) or so to the "divil list" payout for the royal family — officially an expenses allowance.

Britain spends millions more on police protection, upkeep of palaces such as Windsor and royal travel.

A further sign of increased public dissatisfaction with the cost of the royals emerged in an opinion poll commissioned to coincide with the queen's anniversary lunch.

The survey for Independent Television News found three out of four Britons believed ways should be found to cut the cost of the monarchy. Only 21 per cent thought it represented value for money.

"Britain," commented the Guardian, "very far from being a nation at ease with itself, seems to be beginning to find the royals a show too lavish to countenance."

Outcry erupts in U.K. over cost of royals

LONDON (R) — Britain's royal family faced a whirlwind of criticism Tuesday, whipped up by a government minister's pledge that taxpayers will foot an enormous bill to restore fire-gutted Windsor Castle.

Anger at an announcement by National Heritage Secretary Peter Brooke that the government would pay to repair the damage from the fire rekindled a broader debate over the cost of the monarchy to a nation reeling from economic recession.

It united many shades of opinion in the British media that Queen Elizabeth, exempt from income tax on her vast wealth, and the Conservative government had lost touch with the people.

"The Daily Mail is a staunch yet concerned defender of our monarchy. But we have to say that, by misinterpreting the present mood, the queen and her ministers risk far more than they realise," the Mail declared in a front-page editorial.

In common with other commentators, it called for cash to flow from the royal purse into public coffers to restore tumbling confidence in the monarchy.

"Why should a populace, many of whom have had to make huge sacrifices during this most bitter

recession, have to pay the total bill for Windsor Castle when the queen, who pays no taxes, contributes next to nothing?" The Daily Mail demanded.

The Windsor blaze gutted several rooms including St. George's Hall, a magnificent state banqueting chamber, as it roared through corridors, burning tapestries, drapes and ancient panelling.

Unconfirmed estimates put the cost of restoring the fabric of the 1,000-room castle west of London, the queen's favourite home, at between £60 million and £100 million (\$90 and \$150 million).

The queen was expected to make her first public reference to the weekend fire in an address Tuesday to a lunch at London's Guildhall in honour of her 40 years on the throne.

Her anniversary year has already been marred by months of press reports of scandal in the House of Windsor, much of it involving the marital woes of her Prince Charles and his brother Prince Andrew.

The Daily Mirror and Today newspapers contrasted the proposed public payout for Windsor with what they said were notices sent out by Prince Charles to cottage tenants on his duchy of

Cornwall estates seeking 50 per cent rises.

"Unfair, ma'am," cried the Daily Mirror.

Today declared:

"The royals are to public relations what Laurel and Hardy were to the removal business."

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Little threat from sunken nuclear sub — Norway

OSLO (R) — Norway said Tuesday radiation leaking from a sunken Soviet nuclear submarine presented little threat and an attempt to raise the vessel would be riskier than leaving it to rust.

The U.S. television network ABC News said Monday Russian scientists feared a "catastrophic" leak of highly toxic plutonium from the submarine Komsomolsk, which caught fire and sank off north Norway in April 1989, killing 42 seamen.

"The amount of radioactive material aboard is insignificant compared to the amounts already in the sea," said Knut Gussgard, director of the Norwegian Nuclear Energy Safety Authority who said a year ago that the submarine's nuclear fuel was leaking.

"We believe radiation leaking

from the submarine is not a threat to fisheries," he said. Even if the submarine cracked releasing relatively large amounts of the plutonium aboard, he did not expect fish would be dangerous to eat.

Nicolai Nosov, identified by ABC News as a submarine designer who led a Russian expedition to inspect the vessel, said radioactive Cesium 137 had been detected as leaking from the reactor. Mr. Gussgard said "wings matched Norway's."

The Russian scientists said ABC News there was a "sat danger" that plutonium in nuclear torpedoes aboard the vessel could start to leak soon, threatening rich fisheries.

"Next year will be our last chance, and then it will be catastrophic. Plutonium will hit the

water and it will be all over," a Russian Navy engineer identified as Captain Tengiz Borisov said in a taped interview.

Mr. Gussgard told Reuters: "Including the torpedoes, the submarine contains about 10 kilos (22 pounds) of plutonium. Atmospheric nuclear testing over the years has released tonnes of plutonium, much of it into the sea."

He reiterated Norwegian findings that it would be less risky to let the submarine rust on the seabed in international waters 1,685 meters (5,500 ft) deep and gradually leach its plutonium into the sea.

Norway believes there is little marine life at such depths and sea currents would dilute any radioactive substances to levels

that would be no threat to the food chain.

"If there is an attempt to raise the submarine, it could break up and release radiation at sea depths where there are fish," he said. Plutonium is a highly toxic, radioactive substance that remains dangerous for 24,000 years.

Norway says about 300 kilograms of plutonium leaked into the sea from Britain's Sellafield Nuclear plant between 1960 and 1987, an annual rate about the same as the total in the submarine.

A U.S. plane carrying 400 grams (one pound) of plutonium crashed into the sea of Greenland into shallow waters in 1968, causing no measurable damage to fisheries.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

EC envoy awaits Macedonia's verdict

ATHENS (R) — The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is expected to announce this week whether it will change its name in order to secure European Community (EC) recognition, special EC envoy Robin O'Neill said. In one of the most obscure, but potentially explosive Balkan disputes, neighbouring Greece has blocked EC recognition of the newly-independent republic saying the name implies territorial ambitions against its own province of Macedonia. An EC declaration made in Lisbon last June said the Community was ready to recognise the republic but it must be under a name which does not include the term Macedonia. Mr. O'Neill, who must file a report on the dispute before the EC's Edinburgh summit in December, said he told the leaders of the republic's two million Slavs and Albanians that he needed their answer by Wednesday. "They must choose their name, and it's on that point that I am awaiting clarification," he told reporters. If the republic stands by its present name, then he would report that to the EC leaders, he said.

Hong Kong to push ahead with reform

HONG KONG (R) — Governor Chris Patten, defying Chinese Premier Li Peng, plans to push ahead with his democratic reform plans for Hong Kong despite Peking's call for a climbdown. In the bluntest language from the Hong Kong side in its latest row with

Peking Patten's spokesman Mike Hanson said Tuesday the governor would take firm proposals to the Legislative Council (Legco) early next year and comments from Mr. Li ruling out a compromise changed nothing. Peking has blasted Mr. Patten daily since he announced plans last month allowing Hong Kong for the first time to elect, directly or indirectly, the majority of Legco before the British colony returns to China in 1997. Hanson noted that the reform package, announced without negotiation with China, had already stirred spirited debate in the colony.

U.S. suicide doctor assists again

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. (AP) — Dr. Jack Kevorkian attended the suicide of a cancer patient Monday. It was his sixth assisted suicide. Catherine A. Andreyev, 45, of Moun Township, PA., turned on a device that allowed her to inhale carbon monoxide gas through a mask, police said. "I consider this a well-tested, well-controlled, well-thought out medical procedure," Dr. Kevorkian said. "The aim of suicide is to end a life," he said. "The aim of this is to terminate unbearable suffering. I've made progress because for one more human being, suffering is ended." Dr. Kevorkian was charged with murder after the first three deaths, but each time the cases were dismissed because Michigan has no law against assisted suicide. His Michigan medical license has been suspended, but he remains licensed in California.

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